The Middlebury Campus

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Murray re-invited for third Middlebury visit by College Republicans

Murray's 2017 visit caused campus uproar and became a symbol of the nationwide free-speech debate. Now, the Middlebury College Republican co-presidents are asking the campus community to re-engage at a talk this March.

Murray will not receive financial compensation from the college for his upcoming talk — lodging and transportation fees for the visit will be covered by The American Enterprise Institute (AEI), a Washington, D.C.-based think tank where Murray is the W.H. Brady Scholar.

Turn to Page 9 to read community responses to the invitation, and check out our news coverage at go/campus.

COURTESY OF LUCIA EVANS

Lucia Evans '05 on Midd, #MeToo

Alumna was one of the first to bring charges against Harvey Weinstein, who she alleges assaulted her before her senior year at Middlebury.

By RILEY BOARD
News Editor

Lucia Evans '05 applied early decision to Middlebury. When she was a student here, she lived in Hepburn, Stew and Voter. She acted in plays, ate in the dining halls and took literature classes.

She is also one of more than 100 women who have accused famed Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein of sexual assault, for an alleged incident that occured the summer before her senior year at Middlebury. She was part of some of the first criminal charges brought against Weinstein and an integral part of the dissemination of the #MeToo movement.

Evans, then Lucia Stoller, now runs a marketing consulting company, but was an aspiring actress in the summer of 2004 when she met Weinstein at a club in SoHo, New York. She agreed to a meeting at his office at a later date to talk about two scripts, where she alleges he assaulted her, forcing her to perform oral sex.

In 2017, Evans opened up about her experience to Ronan Farrow for his groundbreaking story in The New Yorker about allegations against Weinstein. The article prompted the New York police to contact Evans about pressing charges against Weinstein — they said she was "a highly credible witness" and repeatedly told her that she was "the only one who could put him in jail." After months of deliberation, she agreed to join the criminal case.

Despite insistence from NYPD detectives about the viability of her case, Evans' suit was dropped the following year when it was discovered that the lead detective on the case had failed to inform prosecutors about a witness with a conflicting testimony. Still, her decision to press charges helped jumpstart the legal process against Weinstein.

Now, Weinstein is on trial for five felony counts, including rape and predatory sexual assault, and six women are expected to testify against him. Weinstein and his lawyers maintain that all encounters were consensual.

The Campus spoke with Evans about her time at Middlebury, the process of prosecuting Harvey Weinstein and how the events of the summer before her senior year affected the rest of her life.

Editor's note: This conversation contains references to sexual assault,

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> "Now the whole narrative that they're spinning is that people did it for roles. But I never got a role. And I never wanted a role after that, because I didn't want to get a role like that."

COURTESY OF BENJY RENTON

As the coronavirus continues to spread, people across China are wearing surgical masks to protect themselves from transmission of the virus.

Incoming Feb deferred due to China travel ban

By SOPHIA MCDERMOTT-HUGHES
Staff Writer

ZhiZhong Pu '24, a Chinese international student who intended to matriculate at Middlebury as part of the class of 2023.5, was barred from starting school this semester due to President Trump's travel ban.

The ban, intended to prevent the spread of coronavirus, prohibits any foreign nationals, including F-1 student visa holders, from traveling to the U.S. if they have been in China within the last 14 days. Trump issued the executive order that instituted the ban on Jan. 31, and it went into effect on Feb. 2 at 5 p.m. EST.

On Feb. 4, after the ban went into effect, the college told Pu that he would not be able to begin at Middlebury as a February admit this spring, and would have to wait until the fall to matriculate.

As the last Middlebury students studying abroad in China quickly evacuated after the college cancelled the spring semester of the Middlebury C.V. Starr School Abroad in China, Pu remained stuck in the country without access to his passport.

"I'm so frustrated," Pu said. "I've been looking forward to this for so long, and I had everything prepared. To suddenly have this tragic issue, I've never felt so bad in my life."

Pu had intended to visit Montreal before beginning orientation at Middlebury on Feb. 5. He applied for a Candian visa through Visa Facilitation Services Global and submitted his passport to the agency. The company had not processed his request before the Lunar New Year began on Jan. 25.

Although the holiday ended on Feb. 2, many companies, including VFS Global, remain closed to prevent the spread of the virus.

"Technically, if I had paid a huge amount to get here before the deadline, I still could have come. I would have done that, except it was impossible [because VFS Global has my passport]," Pu said.

Once VFS Global reopens and returns Pu's passport to him, he would still have to travel to a third country and remain in self quarantine for 14 days before coming to the U.S. With a growing number of airlines suspending flights to and from China, even leaving the country could prove difficult.

If Pu received his passport today, he would still miss more than two weeks of classes. According to an email sent to Pu on Feb. 7 by Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students Baishakhi Taylor, an absence that long would exclude him from enrolling at all this spring.

"We are a residential college where our living-learning community requires on-campus residency and participation," Taylor wrote in the email. "I cannot grant your request to join the spring semester late. Please know that we are looking forward to welcoming you in the Fall."

"The travel ban itself wasn't that bad. I anticipated it very early on," Pu said. "What I didn't anticipate was the dean of students' disapproval of me arriving two weeks late given this exceptional situation. I never thought that would be a problem."

The returning Middlebury school in China students were instructed to self quarantine for 14 after their departure from China in accordance with Trump's executive order and CDC guidelines. They may participate in the spring semester, though some will miss the first week of classes.

Pu lives in Xinjiang, the easternmost region of the country, more than 2,000 miles away from Wuhan, the epicenter of the outbreak. Despite the distance, Pu said that the disease remains a constant presence in the minds and lives of the residents in his region.

"The situation in China is very depressing. The government is trying to limit people's interaction and prevent people from going out or traveling across the country," Pu said.

Pu said he receives constant temperature checks whenever he goes into public. When he visited the VFS office, security checked his temperature upon entering the building and again when he reached the fourth floor. Face masks are mandatory for entering train stations or other public spaces.

Pu spoke to the Campus via Skype on a train from Shanghai to Xinjiang. His face mask, usually carefully secured, was haphazardly hanging on one ear, his face open to the comput-

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COURTESY OF BENJY RENTON

"The situation is very bad, but the sensationalization of fear, that's even worse than the virus," said ZhiZhong Pu '24.

Campus conservatives divided over Murray's upcoming visit

By CAROLINE KAPP
Senior News Editor

Three weeks ago, Dominic Aiello '22.5 and Brendan Philbin '21, co-presidents of the Middlebury College Republicans, explained in a Campus op-ed their decision to invite Charles Murray to Middlebury for the third time this March.

Inevitably, the announcement stirred controversy across campus and reignited debates from 2017. Some of those debates have played out within College Republicans itself.

While the College Republicans will sponsor Murray's upcoming talk, the co-presidents and their adviser, former Vermont Governor and college Executive in Residence Jim Douglas '73 were the only individuals involved in the decision. Members of the club learned of Murray's invitation at their meeting on Jan. 21, one day before the Middlebury community received notice through an opinion published in The Campus and an announcement by the college.

"The club did not vote on the prospect of bringing Dr. Murray to campus. As the elected presidents of the club, we have the ability to organize events on behalf of the club," Philbin wrote in an email to The Campus. "The administration explicitly advised us not to tell other members of the community during the planning and we complied with that advice."

In their op-ed, entitled "An invitation to reengage," Aiello and Philbin cited two central reasons for bringing Murray to campus: freedom of academic inquiry and free speech, as well as Murray's credentials.

George Werner '21 sees the invitation as largely symbolic. Werner formerly served as the club's treasurer and is currently the Representative to the State Federation for the Middlebury Chapter of the College Republicans. Although he does not agree that Murray was the best speaker to invite, he views this third visit as an opportunity for the Middlebury community to show that students have grown — and are now able to respect controversial speakers and their peers who may wish to listen to these speakers.

Clayton Hucks '22 is also a member of College Republicans, but self-identifies as an indepen-

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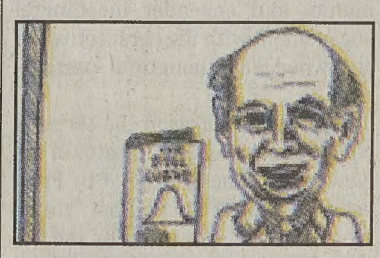

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Women's puck sweeps Trinity over the weekend
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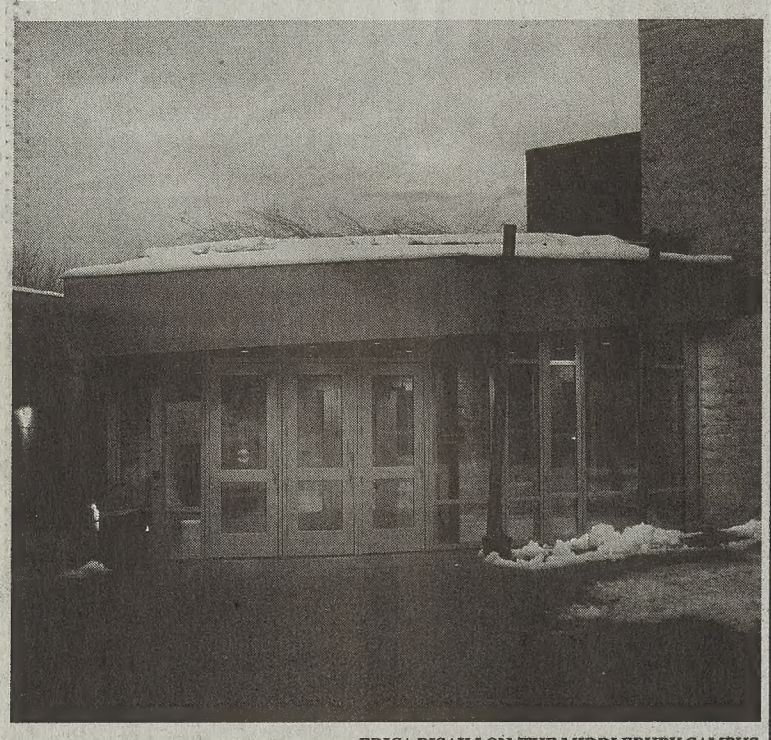


ERICA BISAILLON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

During the month of January, Awater dining hall served only local meat, a more environmentally sustainable practice.

Atwater dining hall embraces local meat providers

By TONY SJODIN
Community Council Correspondent

Atwater Dining tested a new initiative to only use local meats during J-Term. The dining hall has previously worked on initiatives that integrate sustainable sources for food, including the purchase of in-season local produce and Meatless Mondays, which feature vegetarian lunches.

Ian Martin, commons chef of Atwater, said that the test had been successful, but that J-Term is a slow period for the dining hall, so the change is more likely to pose challenges during the spring semester.

"We're going to test this coming up," Martin said. "we're going to stay with local meats, at least to the best of our ability based on supply." "We'll buy as much as we think we'll need... and then if we need to back up, we'll use non-local products."

Emma Clinton and Raechel Zeller, co-directors of the SGA Environmental Affairs Committee, worked on the J-Term efforts as part of a campaign for greater sustainable consumption in the dining halls.

"I saw the month as not only an opportunity for students to eat higher quality, more sustainable meat in Atwater, but also an opportunity for dining services to support local food producers to a greater extent than they already do," Zeller said. "To me, sustainability and food are not only about the carbon footprint behind what you're eating, but how it connects you to the community and environment around you."

The Environmental Affairs Committee sponsored a plant-based dinner in Atwater Dining hall, held a movie screening about plant-based athletics and set up posters to educate students about the local farms the dining halls source from.

"We have yet to go over the numbers to see if this initiative had much positive impact on our efforts to reduce meat in the dining hall," Clinton said, "but the local meats served in Atwater during January were assuredly more sustainable than those that come from factory farms hundreds of miles away."

The price of local meats poses some cost challenges, because locally sourced meat can be two to four times as expensive, according to Martin. However, the cost drops in the summer due to lower transportation costs and the dining hall remains committed to sustainable sourcing.

"I think it's just better: the quality is better, it's the right thing to do. It makes sense," Martin said.

Former ACLU President Nadine Strossen talks free speech

By TONY SJODIN
Community Council Correspondent

Nadine Strossen, a former president of the American Civil Liberties Union (ALCU), gave a talk titled "HATE: Why We Should Resist It with Free Speech, Not Censorship" in Bicentennial Hall on Jan. 28 as part of the Critical Conversations series. The lecture included a response from Professor Erik Bleich, chair of the Political Science department, who offered a perspective on the topic that contrasted with the one Strossen provided.

Strossen spoke about the historical importance of free speech for civil rights movements and the rights of minority groups.

"I have seen through experience," Strossen said, "that equality and liberty are mutually reinforcing, that we cannot have meaningful freedom of speech unless all of us are equally able to and encourage to contribute our voices to the discussion."

"I thought it was interesting when she talked about how often, minorities are the groups who are negatively affected by censorship laws they were originally meant to protect," said Maya Saterson '22.

Strossen and Bleich also explored issues of hate speech and the unintended consequences of laws designed to censor it. They discussed situations in which anti-hate speech laws have had varying levels of success in reducing discriminatory acts.

"Not surprisingly, the social media companies and other online entities have been enforcing their anti-hate speech laws completely as subjectively as governments have been doing, with disproportionate adverse impacts on advocates of human rights, including racial minorities," Strossen said.

"It turns out that when hate speech cases get to the Supreme Court in France... they are very much more likely to restrict speech that targets minorities, and very much less likely to restrict speech that targets majorities," Bleich said. "So, the assumption that it's commonly turned against minorities, well I would say its wrong, it's statistically wrong."

"I found it interesting when the speakers referred to countries in Europe and their policies in regard to censoring, like in Germany after WWII," Evelyn Lane '23 said.

Both during the lecture and in the following question and answer session, Strossen touched on Charles Murray's invitation to campus. She expressed hope that it will be a positive experience for the exercise of free speech.

"I was happy to read the letter that was published by the students who had invited Charles Murray, and it seemed to me that they were stating a spirit of openness to protest, welcoming discussion, consulting with other members on campus about this event in a way that didn't happen the last time he came here," Strossen said.

She also offered thoughts on how people can use free speech to oppose hateful speech.

"Think about this: hate speech itself is only words, and we know that those words can be extremely harmful... We protect words precisely because they are so powerful, and that power can do an infinite amount of good as well as an infinite amount of harm."

Jim Ralph, dean for faculty development and research, curates The Critical Conversations series, and several other organizations sponsor the lectures. The Alexander Hamilton Forum sponsored this lecture.

"I hope that the full array of events featured by Critical Conversations reveals that there are many important topics that deserve robust discussion," Ralph said. "As for the specific events on Race and Racism, I hope that they will attract large numbers of members of our community and engender meaningful engagement with the perspectives of renowned and thoughtful presenters."

The next speaker in the series is Nikole Hannah-Jones, creator of the New York Times's "The 1619 Project" and host of the podcast "1619." Her lecture is sponsored by the Office of the President, MCAB and the Black Studies program, and will take place in Wilson Hall at 7:00 PM on Feb. 25.

SGA senate to shrink as commons phase out

By ABIGAIL CHANG
SGA Correspondent

A two-thirds senate majority voted to eliminate the five "commons senator" position beginning in the 2020–2021 school year at the last Student Government Association (SGA) meeting of J-Term. The impending dissolution of the Commons System next fall prompted the proposal.

The vote for the removal of the commons senator positions comes with a vote in favor of changing the names of the members from "senators" to "representatives." Although two-thirds of the senate voted in favor of this measure, the two proposals require a referendum before they can be implemented because they necessitate amending the SGA Constitution. This means that the student body will have the opportunity to vote for or against the amendments in the spring election cycle.

The elimination of the commons senator position was not the only option proposed to address the future termination of the Commons System. Myles Maxie '22, the current Wonnacott Senator, suggested an alternative that would maintain the size of the senate by adding an additional senator per class year. The body discussed several other options, including adding the president of the International Students Organization (ISO) to the senate or adding a senator position for each dean.

The potential inclusion of the ISO President was meant to address the concern that a smaller senate might reduce diversity of voice, but the SGA eventually decided the change would be unfair to other student organizations, according to Maxie. Senators eventually voted to either reduce the size of the senate body through the removal of the commons senator positions, or to maintain its size by adding another senator per class year.

Maxie said he has been communicating with members of his commons about the restructuring of SGA for months.

"In speaking to my constituents, the vast majority supported having three class representatives instead of two per class year," Maxie said.

Other senators, however, favored the possible opportunities afforded by a smaller senate.

"By having a smaller senate, we would hopefully merge cabinet and senate into one longer meeting where senators and cabinet can hear about the projects and work that is going on," said Community Council Co-Chair Roni Lezama '22. "Hopefully it could be a space where increased communication between the two are fostered and collaboration will naturally occur."

SGA's cabinet and senate currently have separate weekly meetings. SGA President Varsha Vijayakumar '20 also voted to reduce the size of the senate.

"Over the nearly four years that I have been involved in SGA, I've been able to observe and identify what works and what doesn't," Vijayakumar said. "One thing we can all agree on — regardless of experience level, class year, or position — is that our body can always be more effective and efficient than it currently is."

Vijayakumar explained how the senate has faced uncontested elections due to a dearth of candidates in the past. She hopes that a decrease in size will aid in increasing competition and encourage candidates to establish clearer visions and ideas on which to build their campaigns.

"The most successful senators are those who commit to developing a strong platform, receive the student mandate in their favor and then set out to enact that platform over the course of their tenure," she said.

Before students vote on the matter, the Elections Council will send out information about the referendum, as well as yes-or-no-questions that will allow students to indicate if they support removing the commons senator position and changing the "senator" title to "representative." The amendments will pass if they receive a majority vote from the student body. If they fail to meet this level of support, they will go back to the senate so that members can edit them.

The last referendum took place in spring of 2018 and addressed the college's divestment from fossil fuels. The vote was concurrent with the general elections, and SGA saw an uptick in voter turnout, according to Vijayakumar: 68.3% of the student body voted in the spring 2018 election, compared with about 41% in spring 2017 and under 37% in spring 2019.

Cassel brings personal approach to college's Instagram feed

By RACHEL LU
Contributing Writer

Since the arrival of Andrew Cassel, the college's new director of social media and content producing, Middlebury's social media platforms have taken a step closer to the everyday lives of its students, professors and staff. Cassel arrived at Middlebury after 11 years of experience as a higher education social media director at the University of Alaska, with a philosophy of connecting followers with the everyday happenings on campus.

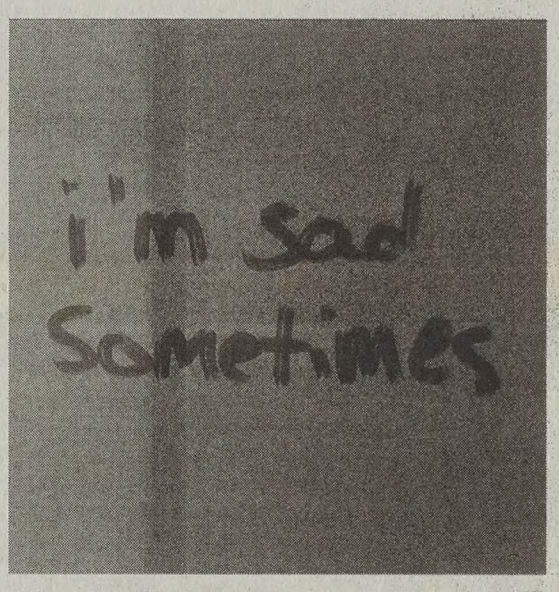
"My tone is what people are doing here, to find the day-to-night life of someone at Middlebury," Cassel said. "I look to tell authentic stories about what goes on every day. This helps prospective students see themselves here, and graduates see their giving efforts continue on."

Since his arrival, Cassel's emphasis on authenticity has been particularly evident on Middlebury's Instagram page, @middleburycollege. Previously, the page curated occasional posts from professional photographers who mainly shot images of the college's architecture, celebratory achievements and important announcements. This January, under Cassel's, the page featured more casual images and videos from a J-Term class in which students explained a project they were working on. Another post captured a message, "I'm sad sometimes," scrawled on a wall in BiHall, with a caption reminding students to seek counseling help when necessary.

Cassel says he tries to post raw and relatable content, which he hopes will speak, in particular, to prospective students.

"It's making a student, no matter where they are in the world, see themselves here in this school," Cassel said. "They should be able to see someone doing something they're interested in who looks like them."

To find worthy content within the community and also gauge interest from his target audience, Cassel uses a skill he calls "social media listening," where he actively seeks users' engagement with Middlebury to find issues to address.



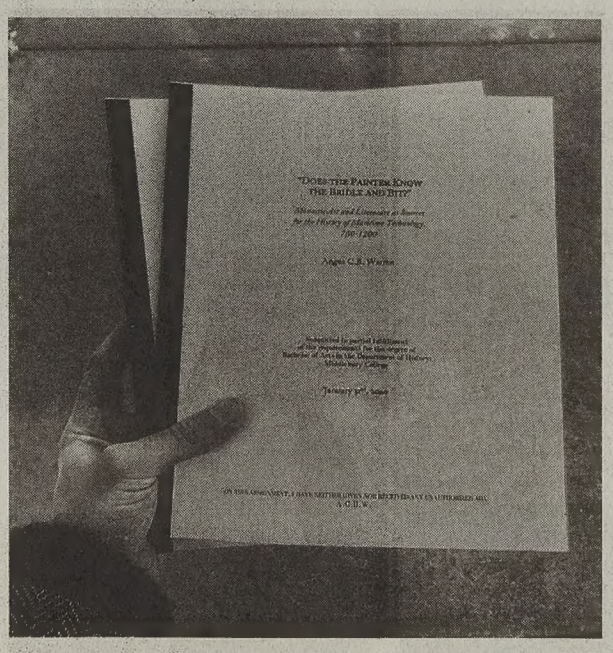
Liked by lila.ss929 and 1,293 others

middleburycollege Seen in BiHall. This is a normal feeling. If you're overwhelmed by stress and emotions and want to talk to someone besides friends or family here's some info from the Middlebury website: When the Parton Center is closed, students may access confidential counseling phone support. To access a counselor by phone after hours (evenings and weekends), call the counseling number (802-443-5141).

"I look at what people are saying about Middlebury on various platforms," Cassel said. "If there's an issue out there that needs to be addressed, then I pass it along to the people who need to see it."

However, Cassel's more personal approach is not reflected well through social media algorithms such as "likes" on Instagram, which have significantly declined under his watch. He says he is not defeated, though, and is persevering with the outlook that value in social media comes from more than superficial engagement through likes .

"Personally, it bothers me, but my experience tells me it's just an algorithm," Cassel said. "Even if it's only 500 people who like it and not 1,200, I know these people saw it and engaged with it, and that meant something to them. It's not how many people see it, but the value of these people seeing it."



Liked by itsbrigid_ and 605 others

middleburycollege Congratulations to everyone completing a phase of their higher education this week! #Repost @goosewarren13 · · ·
That's. A. WRAP! History degree ✅

One of the projects Cassel feels most passionately about is Energy2028, which Cassel believes best exemplifies the value of his work.

"Middlebury is on the forefront of movements such as Energy2028," Cassel said."And it's a project that I can use the institutional accounts for, to focus all the efforts, from students, faculty, and staff, and share the message out."

Cassel is the first director of social media and content producing at Middlebury. Before his arrival, many people shared the responsibility of managing the college's social media. His role falls under the purview of the college's Office of Communications, which is based in Kitchel House on College Street.

Cassel's influence on social media strategy, particularly Instagram, has received mixed responses from students. Some find the familiar approach to lack aesthetic qualities of professional photography.

"While the new content is interesting to current students because we see our classmates featured, prospective students want to see professionality exemplified in a college's social media, and curated content can achieve this," Abby Schneiderhan '23 said.

Other students appreciate the content's intimate perspective into daily life at the college.

"I always read the whole caption on Instagram posts because it's about something I wouldn't have known otherwise," Niamh Carty '23 said. "I think finding a balance between professional and community content is important to creating a well-rounded image of the college."

Cassel hopes that students can engage with Middlebury's social media by using #middleburycollege.

New leadership in the Writing Center

By ANNABELLA TWOMEY
Contributing Writer

The Center for Teaching, Learning, and Research saw recent changes in leadership and methodology under the direction of Genie Giaimo, assistant professor of writing and rhetoric, who came to Middlebury as director of the writing center this fall.

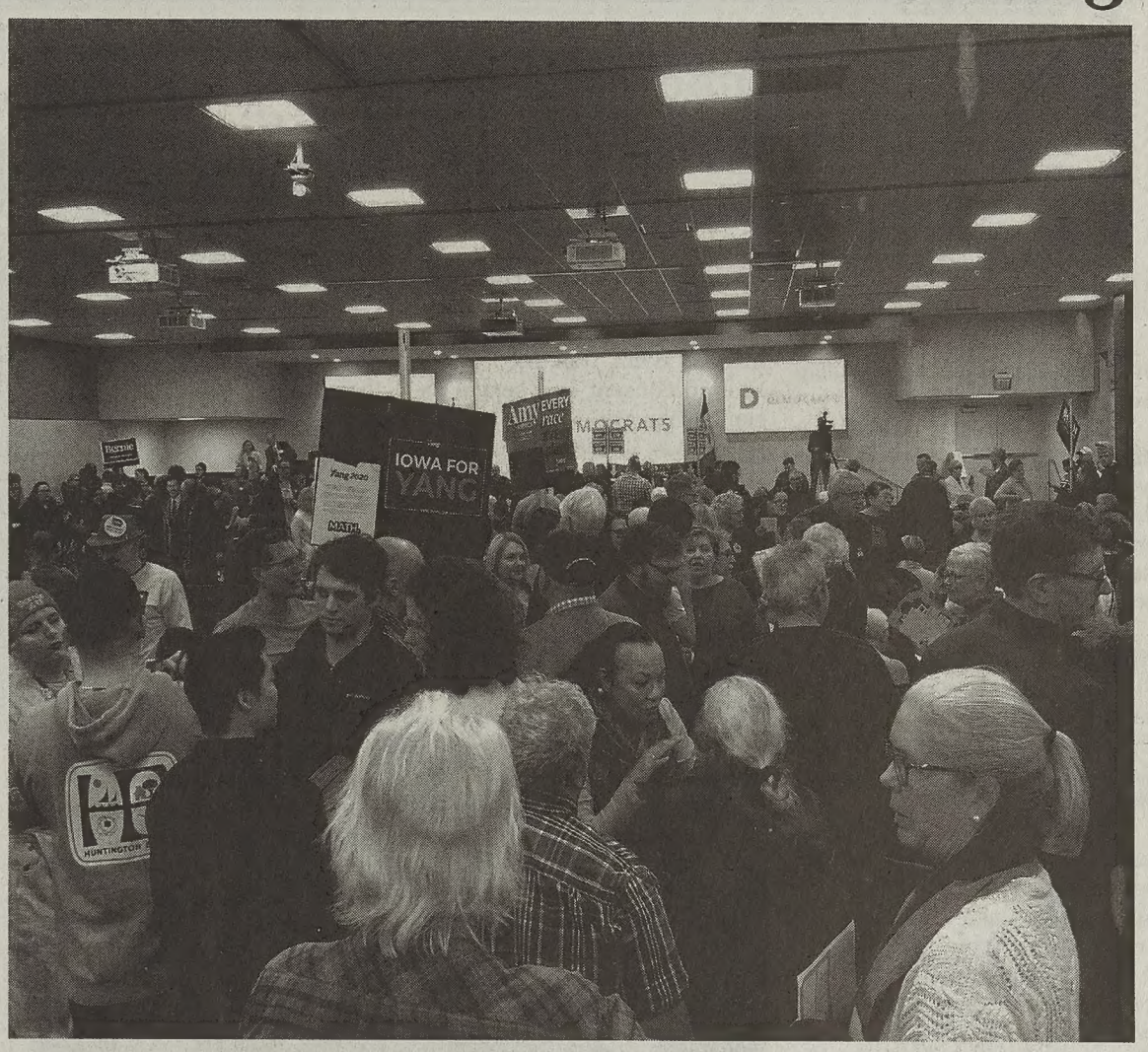
Giaimo has introduced new training and tutor outreach procedures intended to enhance the peer tutoring experience by formalizing and professionalizing the tutoring staff, broadening the application pool and tracking the effectiveness of tutoring sessions. "We are working to make the writing center more inclusive and diverse," she said.

"Dr. Giaimo brings a holistic approach to writing tutoring," said Grace Carroll '22, a writing tutor who started in the fall. Carroll said student tutors are now required to attend a Health and Wellness workshop, in addition to the practical writing training they always receive.

Until this year, writing tutor positions were only available to faculty-selected nominees for the Ward Prize, a first-year writing award. Ward Prize nominees will no longer automatically receive tutor positions. Prospective tutors will be now be required to submit a formal application, including a resume, cover letter, faculty or staff recommendation, and writing sample. However, the recommendation and writing sample will be waived for Ward Prize nominees and students who take Giaimo's "Issues and Methods in Tutoring Writing" course. Giaimo said the course will emphasize qualitative and quantitative research methods, building onto existing writing center strategies.

Giaimo shared that tutors had already begun to respond positively to the changes. "My experience at other writing centers has taught me that in order to have a flexible, confident and satisfied staff, training needs to be substantive but also responsive to tutors' and students' needs," she said.

For Commons and Writing Center drop-in hours, visit go/writingctlr.



COURTESY OF MAGGIE JOSEPH

Voters gathered in the Des Moines 59th Precict for one of 1,700 caucuses held across the state on Feb. 3 by the Democratic Party. The caucuses in Iowa are a nearly 50-year-old tradition.

Coronavirus precautions delay arrival of incoming Feb

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er camera. As the only passenger in his compartment, he was not worried about the possibility of infection.

"I've never seen this in my life," Pu said. "In China, train stations are always so busy. You can't even find a seat in normal times, and now, all the seats are empty. I'm literally the only person."

Pu said he is not afraid of contracting the virus, since he is confident that his youth and good health would protect him from its fatal consequences. However, he finds the atmosphere of tension and fear in China nearly unbearable.

"The situation is very bad, but the sensationalization of fear, that's even worse than the virus," Pu said.

Editor's note: Last month, the college canceled its C.V. Starr School Abroad in China for the spring semester. Read about that in our Jan. 31 article at go/campus.

Students head to Iowa for presidental caucuses

Abbott LaPrade '21 and Maggie Joseph '20 attended last week's Iowa caucuses. While news outlets across the country reported chaos in Iowa, these two saw a very different story unfold on the ground.

By CAROLINE KAPP
Senior News Editor

Editor's note: These interviews have been lightly edited for clarity and length.

CAROLINE KAPP: Why did you attend the Iowa caucuses?

MAGGIE JOSEPH: I attended the Iowa caucuses to conduct research alongside Professor Dickinson in Political Science.

ABBOTT LAPRADE: To actually caucus.

CK: What precinct(s) did you visit?

MJ: I visited Abbott's precinct, Des Moines 59.

CK: Who won in the precinct where you attended? Were you surprised? Why or why not.

AL: Pete Buttigieg won the final alignment by a hair, by a few popular votes, but both he and Bernie [Sanders] got four delegates and [Elizabeth] Warren got three of the county or delegates of the 11 for my district. I didn't think Bernie was going to do quite as well as he did. But no, we were always going to be a big Pete and Elizabeth hub.

CK: What is one word you would use to describe the feeling surrounding the process? Please explain.

MJ: It was a fun mix of excitement but also feeling really uncomfortable. I was so uncomfortable. I don't think that the process of the Iowa caucuses is justifiable. When you think critically about who can be there and whose voice is represented and valued in the room.

AL: Community-building. I think it's a really great opportunity to—I mean, it's a bunch of your neighbors. So, I flew home for the caucuses and got to talk and hang out with all of my neighbors which was really cool. And you know, at the end of the day, it's supposed to be this conversation, so it really is community oriented and focused on reaching a collective decision.

CK: Did speaking with caucus attendees give you any insights into issues that might become important in the upcoming election?

MJ: It depends on who you talk to. For example, Bernie supporters, and other progressive supporters, are often younger and they're about issues like debt. They're thinking about student debt, they're thinking about the climate, they're thinking about corruption. They're thinking about electing a reconstructive president and talking about how things can't keep going the way that they are going. How, America really needs as a candidate to take us in the other direction — and quickly — and that's the big structural change argument. But for supporters of moderate candidates, it's about electability — that's what it all comes down to.

AL: I would say that, by and far, talking to both people in my precinct the night of the caucus — and then also when I was just home talking to friends — the biggest issue was: "How do we beat Donald Trump in 2016." I think that there's a lot of excitement about beating Donald Trump, there's just not a lot of excitement about a particular candidate or a particular issue beyond that.

CK: What was it like to wait for results and not get them? Please describe the experience.

MJ: The media portrayed this chaos in Iowa, which was funny because it was so pleasant. That night we went to some victory parties, because those are fun, then we came home, and they were still not reporting. I thought, "that's weird," but then I thought back through, and it's not surprising. The person who was running our caucus — I loved him — he was 80. This man was not logging into any app. They count by hand and you're like, "Are you kidding me?" But then the New York Times and Associated Press are like, "Oh, we find inconsistencies in this in the report." Yeah, no, duh. They're doing this by hand like. It was really incompetency, more than any conspiracy I could see.

AL: I would actually say that, by and far, we're actually run really, really well. The issue then came in the reporting and the votes, which was a gross miscalculation by the Democratic Party in Iowa. But I think that had it been 20–30 years ago, there would not be so much focus on the fact that there were not instantaneous results and in time for Jake Tapper bedtime. If it was a print media world, we wouldn't even get results by the print deadline and you would have to wait either for a daily news or the next morning's newspaper. I don't think it was nearly as bad as the media made it out to be. The media just have nothing else to report on and they had hours of dead time to fill. So, they decided to rip on the Iowa caucuses, when in actuality, it was a really well run event. It was just not executed on the back end very well.

CK: Did this experience give you an insight into any strengths/flaws of the caucusing system? Do you think that it is a valuable system in our democracy?

MJ: Caucusing protects the status quo and it raises barriers to participation. If you enter the caucus at 7:02 p.m., you can't go. What happens if the roads are bad, and there's a snowstorm and you can't afford snow tires or have a car? You can't go if you have children at home, and you can't bring them for whatever reason. Who has the privilege to attend a caucus? This experience made me think a lot about whose voice matters. I was able to observe the social dynamics of crowd managing and who was having various conversations. I saw who was using their social capital over someone else to convince them to join their party. The caucuses, to me, just felt like an old boys' club, old white boys club all coming together. No individual is created equal, let's not ignore social realities here. We are not in an equal playing field; we need to acknowledge this. Caucusing is built for a type of unity and equality that has either never existed in America, or that disappeared long ago.

AL: I'm a really big proponent of the caucus system. I think it really makes you think deeply about your choice and who you're voting for. There is also this idea of the caucus being a conversation. When we went to the caucus, I caucused for Amy Klobuchar, and she wasn't viable in the first round. So, a group of us talked about what the best strategy was going forward — what is our goal here tonight? I think that like a lot of people knock caucuses for not being open and accessible to everyone. So few people vote in primaries anyways. I would be curious to know what the primary percentage participation rate is in Alabama. The Democratic Party did a great job this year in making it more accessible and open than ever before — they had a bunch of satellite locations. My brothers goes to school in Connecticut and was able to go into New York and caucus remotely.

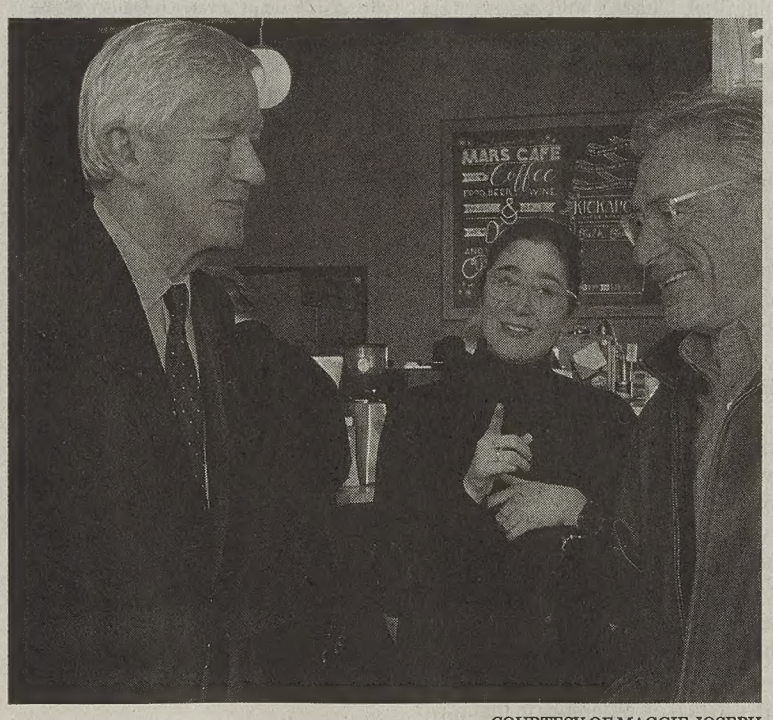
CK: What surprised you the most about the caucus?

MJ: I was surprised by how uncomfortable I felt in the caucus. I stepped into that room and realized how many people didn't have the privilege to do so. I think the voter turnout rate is on par with 2016 — but it's around 16% or something. Iowa is around 90% white and not a very racially diverse place. But I was still surprised — walking into the caucus of around 511 people, I saw fewer than 15 people of color in the room. The only people of color that were visible were often press. So, how can we consider this system to be representative of what Iowans want? But that being said, I found myself having moments of, "Wow, this is such a beautiful manifestation of democracy." But, the other part of me was like, "What the hell?" This system, though it was instituted in the 1970s, reflects the idea of an America that has never existed. It was based on this conception of America, of 18th century America, in which equal, land-owning white men came into a room and picked a nominee. If that did exist at one time, it hasn't existed for a long time.

AL: I don't know if anything really surprised me, I was pretty well-educated and engaged and have been there before. I have also just been deeply ensconced in the system. I know the caucus program. I've worked in Iowa politics — it all makes a lot of sense to me, so I didn't find any of it too terribly surprising.

COURTESY OF MAGGIE JOSEPH

Both Joseph and LaPrade attended various candidates' campaign rallies. Senator Amy Klobuchar did not reach viability in Des Moines 59, the caucus the two attended.



COURTESY OF MAGGIE JOSEPH

Joseph chatting with former MA Governor Bill Weld who spoke at Middlebury this past Fall. Weld was in Iowa for the Republican caucuses which occured the same day.

COURTESY OF MAGGIE JOSEPH

Senator Elizabeth Warren's Golden Retriever Bailey, campaigning for his mom.

Evans on life after alleged Weinstein assault: "Sometimes you feel like a victim, sometimes you feel like a survivor."

Continued from Page 1

rape and suicide. It has been lightly edited for clarity and length.

RILEY BOARD: When we first contacted you, you said that you'd be happy to speak with us because Middlebury had a special place in your heart. Can you talk about that? What did you do and study at Middlebury?

LUCIA EVANS: I was a Literary Studies and Theater double major. It was just a really special place for me. All of my best friends, my close friends now, are my friends from my junior and senior years there. Something about the place is so special.

I think the only thing that kind of soured it for me was, obviously, my sexual assault, which occurred the summer after junior year — so my senior year was a bit of a nightmare. But I think the people who go there just really want to make a difference in whatever field they're in or whatever they're doing, they always have multifaceted interests outside of class and really are the smartest people I've ever met. They continue to be the people that challenge me to this day.

RB: You mentioned in your most recent interview with Ronan Farrow that you had had a "magically good" life before [the alleged] assault happened, and that you had to reconcile how this affected and changed you, the before and after. It happened before your last year at Middlebury — then you came back to campus for another year. What was that like? What was it like in the immediate aftermath, the return to school?

LE: It's so crazy, because that year was such a happy year for me a lot of the time. It was honestly the year where I had my closest friends and kind of my best group and took fantastic classes and had a really great social life. I was really active and — and yet at the same time, I felt like I was living this other life.

After I came back to school, I told my close group of friends, my roommates. We lived in Voter at the time, it was awesome. Voter was always a place I wanted to live, and I just never thought I would and I was so happy with this group of girls, with our space and our life that we shared. I really felt like I needed to tell them the honest truth. I didn't tell anyone else the scope of what happened. Emotionally, it was a period of very high highs and very low lows.

I had the opportunity to play this role in the play "Necessary Targets," which is a play by Eve Ensler ['75]. My character was on stage the entire play but she doesn't speak except for one long monologue kind of toward the end where it is revealed — and she's been holding a baby the whole time — and it's revealed that the baby has passed away, and in her hands are just a bunch of rags, and she has been raped. And so she tells her whole story. And it's heart wrenching. And I remember the director, when I was auditioning, saying, "You can just channel this character so well, it's amazing." And I remember thinking, "If only you knew why I could do this so easily." And it was because it had literally just happened to me.

I kind of felt that in playing that role, that I had told my parents, which is ridiculous, but it actually really calmed me down and helped me deal with it for a few years, because I felt like in my own way that I had told them what happened to me. And then I could be at peace, which was, of course, not true. But it did give me some semblance of normalcy.

RB: Did you seek out help at Middlebury after that summer? From where did you draw support?

LE: When the cops came to my house two years ago and told me I could put him in jail, they were like, "Why didn't you come to us right away?" And I said, "Why would I have come to you?" I mean, he was so powerful at that time — and he was the biggest producer in Hollywood. I couldn't watch the Oscars or anything after it happened to me because I would see him everywhere. Every film, I still see his name everywhere.

I try to not beat myself up for what I didn't do but obviously do wish I had gotten help. And I would advise anyone going through something similar to absolutely seek help, because it just compounds over the years and it becomes worse and worse and you'll end up hurting yourself like I did for many years. And I don't wish that on anybody else.

RB: We're obviously in a very specific cultural moment, that of the #MeToo movement, in which survivors are coming forward in unprecedented numbers and college campuses are offering more institutional support for victims than ever before. What was the culture around consent and sexual assault when you were a student here? Was it possible to talk to your friends and peers about what you'd endured?

LE: If the #MeToo movement had happened then, there's no question I would have said something right away. There was such a stigma around it then, and little did I know that 100 plus women were going through the same thing as me at the same exact time. And then obviously, women all over the world are dealing with much, much worse, and they have zero support.

COURTESY OF LUCIA EVANS

Evans said the year after her alleged assault was difficult. "Emotionally, it was a period of very high highs and very low lows," she said.

It was hard for me to even say what happened to me and identify myself as a victim — or as a survivor, because now we're meant to use the word survivor. Sometimes you feel like a victim, sometimes you feel like a survivor. You can be both, right? But I do remember at Middlebury, when I was feeling suicidal, my boyfriend at the time reached out to campus security — they were really fantastic. They were very supportive, even then. But the [#MeToo] movement didn't exist. And there wasn't yet that tipping point of cultural change where it became OK to talk about this, where people want you to tell the truth. Everyone I had met at Midd was great, I just was not ready. And the world probably wasn't ready either.

RB: In the episode of "The Catch and Kill Podcast" on which you appeared, you spoke about how [the alleged] assault affected your confidence with acting and your career. Can you talk about that? How did that ordeal change your plans for the future?

LE: It completely changed it, for two reasons. One of them was that in my entire time as an actor, I'd always been of the school of thought that acting should come from a place of real emotion and raw energy — and you translate that into the character. Acting post-college was a struggle, because I was at a Meisner acting school that was all about coming from that place of real truth. So first of all, I couldn't find my real truth because I was absolutely not ready to talk about anything. Whenever I tried to tap into any real emotion, I would just shut down. There was only one time when I was able to kind of let loose and then I knew after that I couldn't do it anymore, it was just too painful. Even though everyone said, "Wow, that was amazing." I was like, *I can't do it.* I couldn't act when I was hiding something that big.

The other reason was just because I had seen the worst of the industry, very quickly, and I thought that was what the industry was like. And I thought, *I don't want to do that. I have no interest.* Now the whole narrative that they're spinning is that people did it for roles. But I never got a role. And I never wanted a role after that, because I didn't want to get a role like that. I just was not interested in being part of a system that just chewed up and spat out woman and didn't respect them and forced them to perform sexual acts against their will.

RB: Now that your case has been dropped, what has it been like for you to experience Weinstein's trial?

LE: I would have a lot more trouble experiencing it if it hadn't been for this photo shoot ["100 Women vs. Harvey Weinstein"] that me and my fellow Silence Breakers participated in for New York Mag. It was so amazing meeting these people — we have an email chain that we've been on for years, but it was just me and a bunch of actresses. It's so surreal for me. I'm the only non-actress on this email chain. It was like Rose McGowan and the other Silence Breakers, and I'm one of them, but I'd never met them. And meeting them was so meaningful and wonderful — and I just felt like I had all these sisters. And so thank God that happened before the trial, because now I have this amazing network of women who've been through some of the same things that I have and have been hurt by this horrible person but now we're empowered and we're a collective.

RB: I wanted to talk a bit about an interview with Donna Rotunno, Harvey Weinstein's lawyer, that was aired in an episode of "The Daily" last Friday. Have you listened to the interview?

LE: No, I couldn't listen to it. And I think that's also an important point. Just because I think it's important to realize that you do not have to do everything, because media consumption is so damaging sometimes. And I would just encourage people to take a step back and just not feel like they have to consume everything. Because your health is more important than browsing Instagram, you know what I mean? Or reading or listening to the podcast that you think might be triggering for you.

Tell me what I missed.

RB: Do you mind if I read you a quote from Rotunno from the interview?

LE: OK, sure.

RB: "So when I make comments and say 'if you go to the hotel room,' doesn't mean you deserve to have something bad happen to you. But if you go to the hotel room, you continue to perpetrate a culture that allows that to be acceptable. And so if women take the power and women say, none of us are going to a hotel room, then that culture must change." This was in reference to the circumstances under which many of the alleged assaults by Weinstein occured. How would you respond to that quote?

LE: I knew that he was a really dangerous person, and that put me on extra guard — I wasn't going to go and meet with him late at night because I was nervous about him. I wasn't as nervous as I should have been. But I went to his office in the middle of the day, when there would be people, because how could something bad happen to me, surrounded by people?

Also, why would somebody want to put themselves through this hell? I mean, it's not like we're getting anything out of this. None of us have gotten a thing out of this. This is not a fame-seeking thing. In fact, we've only lost jobs, we've only lost like careers and opportunities because of this.

We just really want to help and that's the only reason why we're doing it. I hope people continue to want to help because it's the only way that any changes are ever going to happen.

RB: What advice would you give to someone who has just graduated and is beginning to navigate industries, like the movie industry, that can be fraught with certain injustices and circumstances like the ones that you have experienced?

LE: I would just encourage people to talk to someone as quickly as you can, because I wasted far too much time not being open and honest. Even though you can have some great times — it wasn't like I just wiped 13 years off of my life. I got married, I have a wonderful career, I've had great things happen to me. But there's still something in the back of my mind that wouldn't leave me alone. And this thing that I hadn't told anyone was like eating me up. So I would encourage people to talk about it with someone they trust and trust that person that they're talking to.

I remember thinking in college, during my senior year, I just wish that my parents would tell me that I was still a good person, that it was okay that this happened to me. I just needed some type of validation, that I was okay and that I was still a good person, because I still thought it was my fault, which obviously it was not.

Also, I would not be afraid of the criminal justice system, even though I've had a really horrible experience with it. Because honestly, if you don't try to make a difference and change the law, there's no way that anything is ever going to change around here. And we all know that things have to change. So I would just say if there is ever an opportunity that anyone has to try to make a difference in that way, don't be afraid of it. I've had the experience I've had and I would do it again, even though it was painful. The more you revisit these horrible things actually really helps you heal, even though you don't want to go back to these places. And I hope no one ever has to go through what I did. And some have gone through far worse than I have. But it really is amazing how much it can help you heal by talking about it.

Current and former members of College Republicans discuss Murray invitation

Continued from Page 1

dent voter. He expressed similar sentiments to Werner.

"Despite disagreeing with Murray's views, I am a huge advocate for free speech and, therefore, think it is fine for the College Republicans to invite Murray to campus," Hucks said. "I think free speech is dying on college campuses across our country and it is important that we try our best, here at Middlebury, to keep it alive."

Former College Republicans co-president Kaleb Patterson '21.5 disagrees with the decision to bring Murray back to campus. He sees the invitation as an attempt to be inflammatory, more than anything else.

"I think it really is just an attempt to sort of provoke the campus and I think it's a really poor decision and a really self-centered decision," Patterson said. "I think that their editorial was honestly a little bit of a facade."

"Regardless of what happens, it's going to reopen old wounds that I think we were maybe just now kind of getting over," Patterson said, noting that the controversial invitation of right-wing Polish politician Ryszard Legutko last April only aggravated these wounds.

He said he sees value in bringing a controversial, thought-provoking speaker to campus, but that he does know if Murray can even be considered "thought-provoking."

Sophia Dongas '21 served as co-president with Patterson last year, but said she chose to step down following a period of personal growth. While she no longer identifies as Republican and does not attend group meetings, Dongas still believes that engaging with dissenting perspectives plays an essential role in political growth.

"I hope that the invitation was not meant to provoke or incite unrest within our community. Rather, I would like to believe that the intention was to start an open dialogue among students and faculty," she said.

However, she recognizes the larger significance that Murray has on the Middlebury campus. "The events of 2017 are a spectre that will always haunt our college's history," she said, and thus that "Charles Murray may not be the best figure to rally behind for the advocacy of free speech."

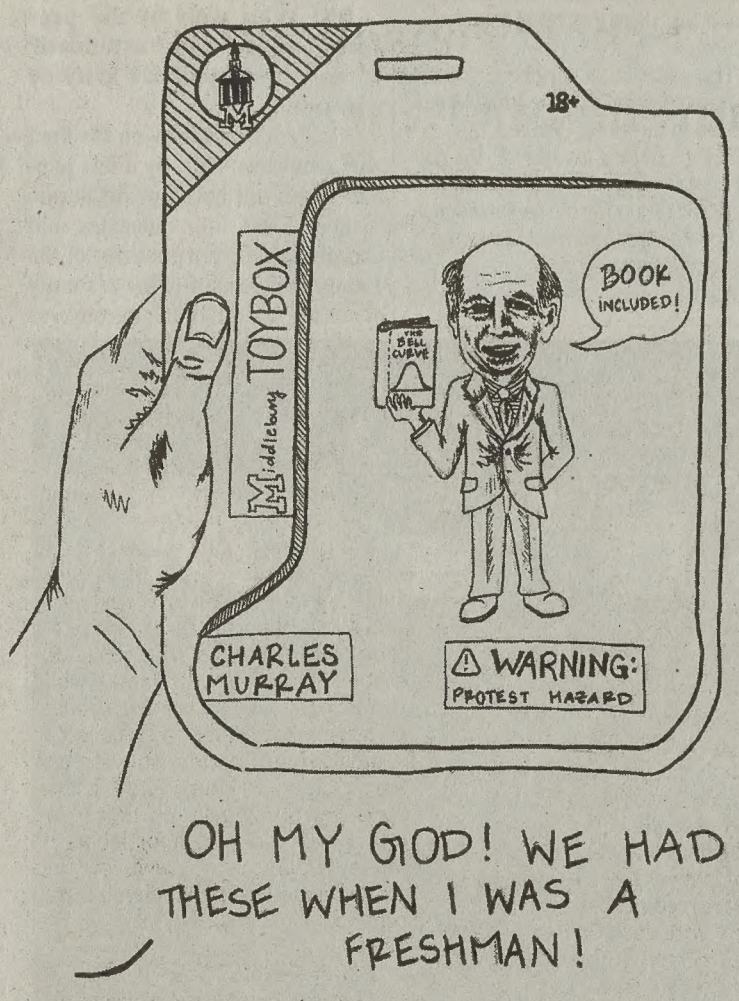
Campus conservatives are generally divided between activism-focused, outspoken conservatives and more subtle conservatives, according to Patterson. He suspects that most students who identify with the latter group, including himself, are unhappy with the invitation.

Patterson has noticed a shift in the club's goals since his tenure as president during the 2018–19 school year. While he viewed the group as a place for conservatives on campus to freely discuss ideas, he also sees Aiello and Philbin's approach to the club as more activist. He explained that this form of aggressive activism among young conservatives on college campuses frequently takes the form of provocation.

Patterson said he will not be returning to group meetings as long as Aiello and Philbin — or other students with similar ideals — remain in leadership positions.

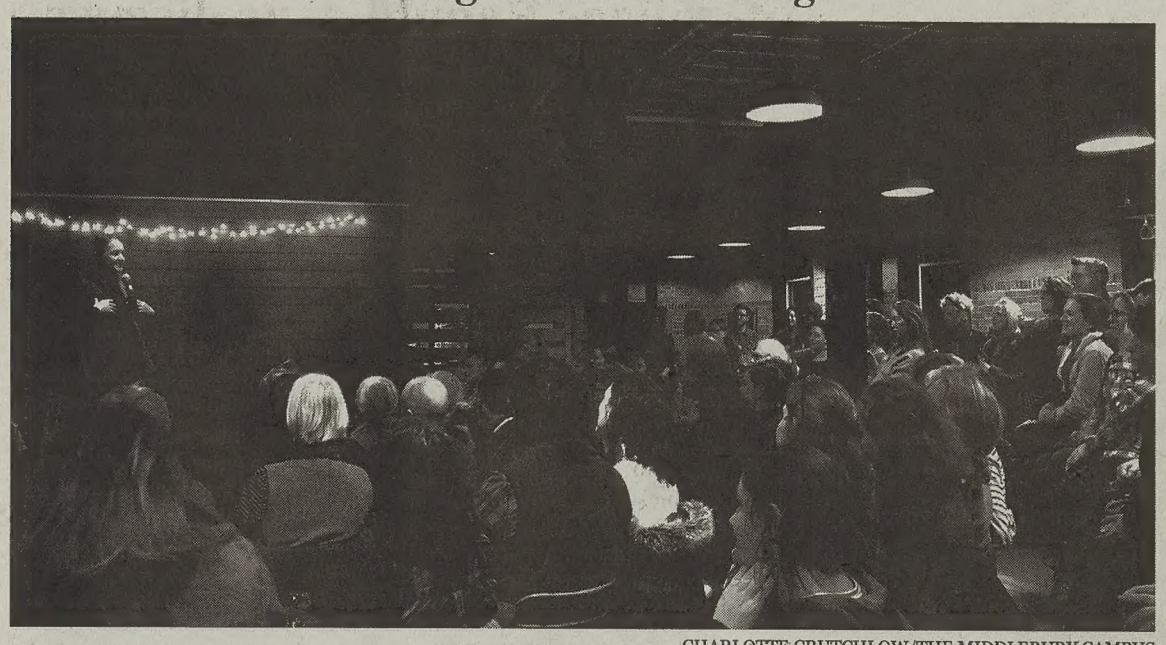
"I can definitely see [the invitation] pushing a lot of people away, who wanted more of a space to talk and meet other conservatives on campus," he said.

Managing Editor James Finn '20.5 contributed reporting.



SARAH FAGAN

Love...Really: Bundle attendees share *amor* through stories and song



CHARLOTTE CRUTCHLOW/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Bundle's "Love, Really.?!" moth-style storytelling event on Jan. 24 was attended by dozens of local residents. Among a long queue of live readings and song, organizers hosted an emcee and provided refreshments.

By CHARLOTTE CRUTCHLOW
Contributing Writer

Bundle hosted the second installment of the Middlebury Underground storytelling series on Friday, Jan. 24, where students, professors and locals shared short, Moth-style stories. The subject of these stories was love, chosen by organizers Lisa Mitchell, Matt Laux and Kelly Hickey.

"The theme of love is special because it takes so many forms," said Mitchell. "[It includes everything from] more classic romantic interpretation to the unconditional love for a child to the adoration of a personal obsession." Mitchell said that organizers chose to punctuate the title of the series "Love, Really.?!" to allow for different interpretations of the term.

Organizers anticipated that the event would differ from the first storytelling function hosted in November. For example, organizers arranged to have an emcee, Judd Markowski, play an accordion between speakers.

The food, camaraderie and stories attracted people from all corners of the Middlebury community. "I love the Moth and have always wanted to attend a live storytelling event on a larger scale," said Asa Waterworth, an admissions counselor at Middlebury College. "Plus, they have bread and brie."

The event encouraged many modes of artistic expression, from literal storytelling to musical performances. As the night progressed, storytellers and artists touched on themes of personal reflection, enduring bonds, courageous risk-taking, and spontaneous adventures.

"There is a magical quality to bringing this community together in an intimate setting and hearing people's unique voices and candid stories," Mitchell said. "The honesty and vulnerability of the presenters is powerful. We're always awestruck by the quality and variety of the storytelling."

Storyteller Kelly Hickey revealed her hilarious, somewhat embarrassing obsession with Peeps candy, describing how both neighbors and friends expressed love by gifting them to her — she even likened the abundance of candy being shared to the frenzy of "zucchini season." David Engel also discussed his love of food, offering a comedic story detailing his fondness for the Middlebury Co-op. He emphasized the love that it fosters in the community — which, in tandem with absurd products such as "male llama cheese" — has sustained him through trying times.

Betty and Victor Nuovo spoke about their 66 years of marriage, saying that "[their] favorite part of the day is lying next to each other, enjoying the feeling of 'togetherness.'" Dave Hohenschau described how he met his current wife in the basement of their Christian Fundamentalist Church. Hee resolved to walk the Appalachian Trail for months — traveling from Maine to Vermont — in order to visit her at home. The two are now happily married.

Lianna Merrill offered an account of a failed hiking date: After her meticulously organized plan of drinking beers and watching the sun set procured little enthusiasm from her counterpart, she was left a bit "gun shy" when it came to dating in the following months. Soon after, however, she met a man who took her on a special hike, and they've been together ever since.

"I love the magical feeling that comes when the room fills with our community for the purpose of listening to each other's stories," said Laux after all of the stories had been shared. Hickey added, "these are some of the most creative and heartwarming events I've ever been involved with."

Mitchell, Laux, and Hickey established these Moth-style storytelling programs as a quarterly series at Bundle. Upcoming themes may include art, creativity, and travel. The team has already begun planning events for both the spring and summer. News regarding the selected theme for the spring installment is expected soon.

Wild Mountain Thyme shuts doors after 48 years

By HAEUN PARK
Staff Writer

After 48 years of supplying the town of Middlebury with hand-picked clothing and eclectic thrift finds, Wild Mountain Thyme closed its doors on Sunday, Jan. 9. Paula Israel '76, the boutique's owner, cited retirement as the reason for its closure.

"I've known I wanted to transition to retirement for years," Israel said. "I just wanted to wait until I was 65 until I made any moves because of Medicare and Social Security."

Israel's late husband Allen Israel established Wild Mountain Thyme in 1971. Israel herself started working at the store shortly after graduating from Middlebury. Over the years it became the oldest single-owned business in town.

When asked the secret behind its staying power, Israel emphasized the relationships with her customers.

"We have always prioritized customer service," she said. "We've had incredible relationships with the people that come into our store. They're more like family than customers, in a way."

Kitty Hall, who worked at Wild Mountain Thyme for 40 years, said the most important aspect of helping a customer was being a good listener.

"You had to listen for when customers wanted your help, listen to what they were looking for, and then help them to the best of your ability by offering what you had in the store," Hall said. "Clothing has the ability to change someone's mood. When someone comes in saying, 'Oh I don't like what I'm wearing,' or 'I need something for this party,' you listen to what they want and, with clothing, you have an ability to uplift them."

Israel noted that, oftentimes, people would pop in the store just to stay and chat with the workers.

"You never knew what would happen," she said. "It could be a therapy session, it could be whatever — just people talking. There were some great conversations over time. The relationships with my friends started with them coming into my store. That's how I met everybody."

This atmosphere of unpredictability extended to the store's merchandise.

"You never knew what you would find here," Israel said. "And I think that was something that people liked. They would come in, but they didn't know what they were going to find, and they were always surprised pleasantly."

In the final days of Wild Mountain Thyme's operations, employee Jen Overkirch sold fixtures, racks and the last of the store's merchandise thinned out by deep discounts.

"It's been pretty amazing," Overkirch reflected on her past years working for the store. "Paula and Allen have been really great employers, and I've been very fortunate to work for a small business — a family business at that. It really provided my family with comfort and security especially as I'm raising children. Not to mention I've had amazing customers who I've built long term friendships with."

Overkirch's next steps are to fill her days with being a mother. Israel, on the other hand, wants to focus on doing less stuff and enjoy retirement.

"I'm a very busy person, so I just want to dial back a little bit and be able to have some more time for myself," Israel said.

Although Wild Mountain Thyme is now closed for business, Hall believes in the significance of the connections that the store created in its long history.

"When I started the job, I was young — of course I wanted my paycheck," Hall said. "But as I evolved, it became more than just a job. It became a family. Not just with the people I worked for, Allen and Paula, but also my coworkers. When you have that much time go by — I started when I was 30 and I'm now just retired at 70 — lots happen in between. It was a happy time in my life."

School consolidation movement divides rural VT

By ARIADNE WILL
Local Editor

Rural Vermont schools are consolidating with larger schools under the guidelines of Act 46, a bill passed in 2015.

"It is the conclusion of a multiyear process to create more sustainable and efficient school governance structures and improve access to quality PreK-12 education for all Vermont students," reads the State of Vermont Agency of Education's web page.

While the Senate passed Act 46 — which stipulated school consolidation — in 2015, it allowed schools to merge on their own terms, not forcing consolidation until 2019. This led the act to resurface at the start of last year.

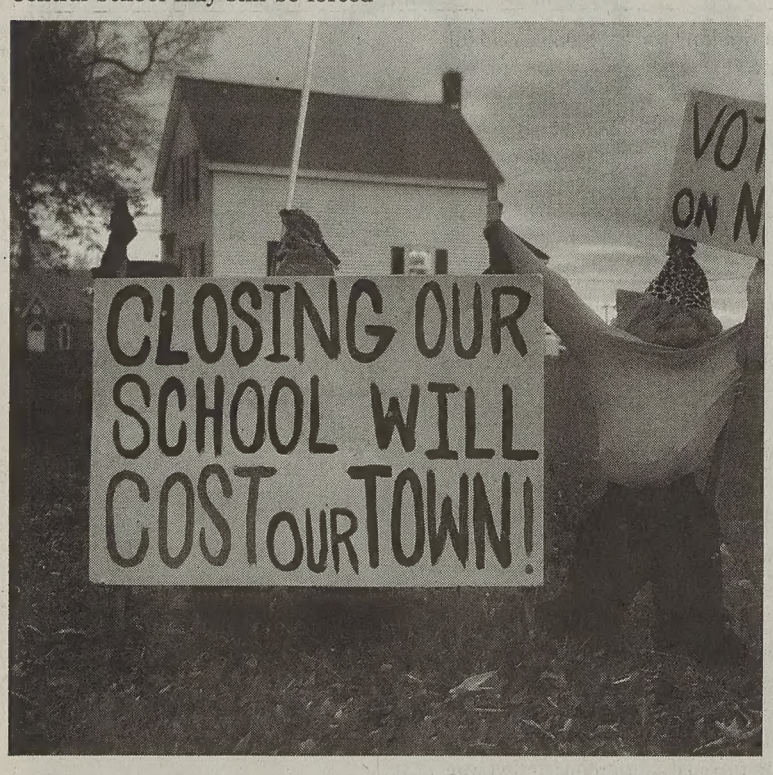
Although some schools requested and received an extension on forced school consolidations at the start of last year, many are fighting against forced mergers altogether.

In a vote last November, the town of Ferrisburgh voted against merging its elementary school with the larger school in nearby Vergennes. Even with the support of the popular vote, Ferrisburgh Central School may still be forced to merge with Vergennes Elementary School next fall, a shift incentivized at the administrative level with the possibility of budget savings.

In addition to voting locally against the mergers, over two-dozen districts have sued the State of Vermont in an attempt to fend off consolidation. The case was heard by the State Supreme Court on Jan. 15, though a decision has not yet been handed down.

The plaintiff schools and attorney David Kelley argue that consolidation of districts disproportionately impacts rural schools, the rural towns that will lose such schools and the students who would be forced to attend school in larger towns nearby. The case against consolidation states that lengthened bus rides, larger class sizes, and the impersonal nature of larger schools disproportionately affect students who previously attended smaller, rural elementary schools.

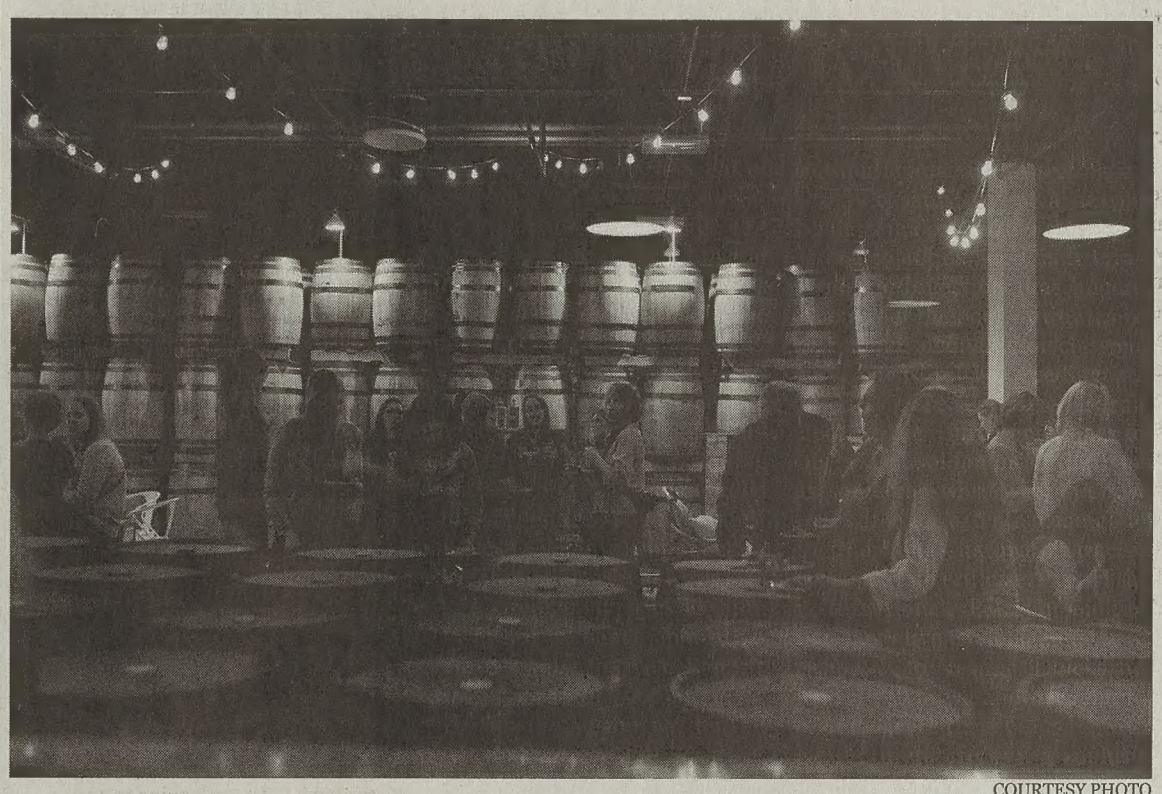
Editor's Note: This is the introductory article to a series on school consolidation in rural Vermont.



BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Those in opposition to school consolidation within the county have been vocal in newspaper editorials, board meetings and demonstrations.

Stonecutter Spirits serves last drinks



COURTESY PHOTO

For the last seven years, Stonecutter Spirits has produced gin and whiskey from its distillery on Exchange Street. The company ceased production this year.

By HAEUN PARK
Staff Writer

Stonecutter Spirits ceased its gin and whiskey production, permanently closing both its Middlebury tasting room and its Burlington cocktail bar, Highball Social.

According to co-founder Sivan Cotel, the company began evaluating its options in the fall of 2019 and officially closed their two locations around New Year's. One primary factor behind their decision was an inability to distribute to markets outside of Vermont.

"It was certainly a hard decision," Cotel said. "We were very proud of what we'd built with Stonecutter: the relationships we had with customers, the products we created and the events we did. But without gaining any traction outside of Vermont, the business wasn't growing enough in order to pay the bills. Over time we had to accept that we hadn't achieved the size that we hoped in order to make the business sustainable, and so we really had to make some hard choices."

Cotel and Sas Stewart founded Stonecutter Spirits in 2013 and worked to convert what was previously a tile factory into an aging facility while simultaneously perfecting their recipes.

"We decided to focus on making gin and whiskey because they're our two favorite things to drink," Stewart said. "Middlebury seemed like a beautiful space to be making something that we loved."

Cotel and Stewart said they will miss the culture Stonecutter Spirits has fostered over the years.

"The community in Middlebury has been wonderful," Cotel said. "I really can't stress that enough. At our closing party on January 3, a number of folks said to me, 'Wow it's really sad to see Stonecutter leave. It will be a loss to our community.' That meant a lot to us."

Stonecutter Spirits has hosted numerous cocktail dinners and special events over the years of its operation. Elizabeth Tarr '19 had been an employee at the company's Tasting Room for six months before Stonecutter announced its closing. Tarr was able to see firsthand the impact that Stonecutter Spirits had on its community.

"Stonecutter brought people together," Tarr said. "Our events were always collaborative, [and] featured local musicians, chefs and organizations. People from Addison County to New Zealand would share a drink in the tasting room or [in] the comfort of their home."

The company's involvement extended not only to parties but also to fundraisers. Stonecutter Spirit's annual Galentines Day event celebrated female friendships and business owners, while also raised money for WomenSafe, an Addison County organization that supports women who have been victims of domestic abuse. In 2019, Stonecutter Spirits raised over $5,000 for the cause.

"Being able to use our platform to raise awareness and money for worthy organizations has been an honor," Stewart said.

As for the future, much is still to be determined. Cotel said that for the next half year, he will be working on selling off the equipment and inventory that's left of Stonecutter Spirits. At present, there are still bottles of Stonecutter Spirits gin and whiskey on the shelves of liquor stores around the state.

"We still have a little bit of work to do to wind down everything with Stonecutter," Stewart said. "I want to properly and gratefully close this chapter before starting the next."

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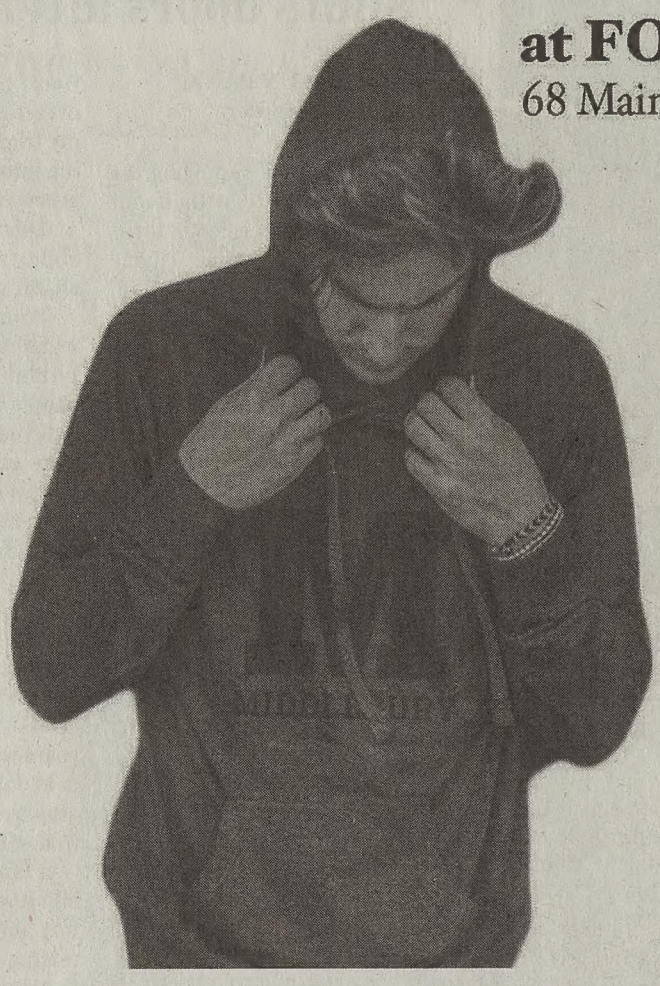

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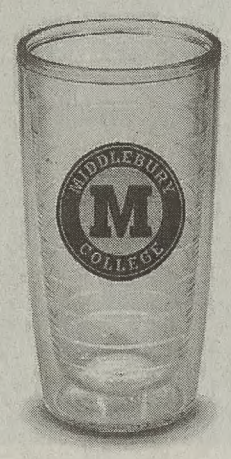

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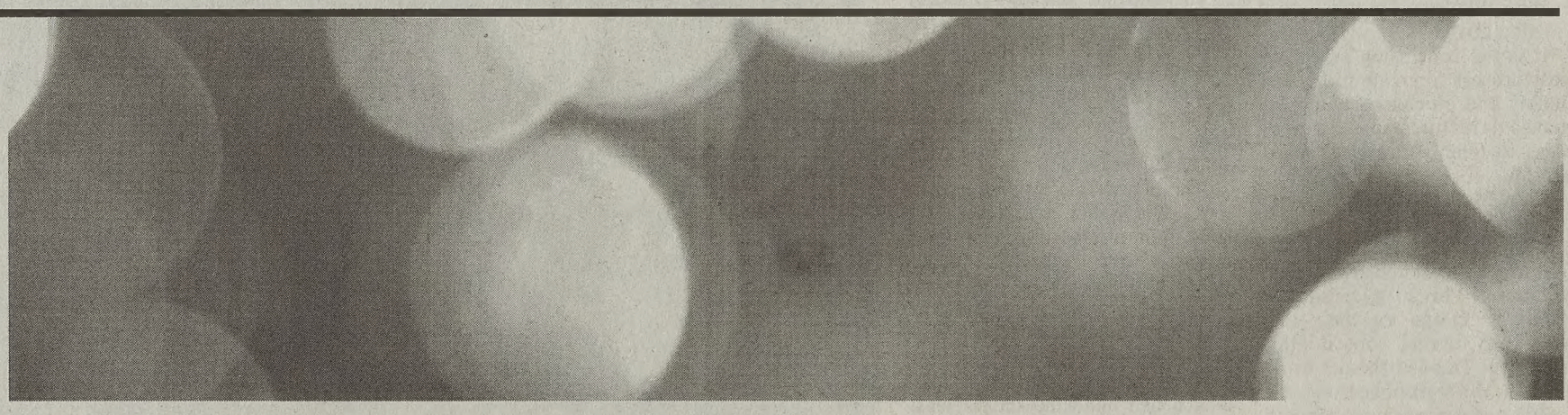

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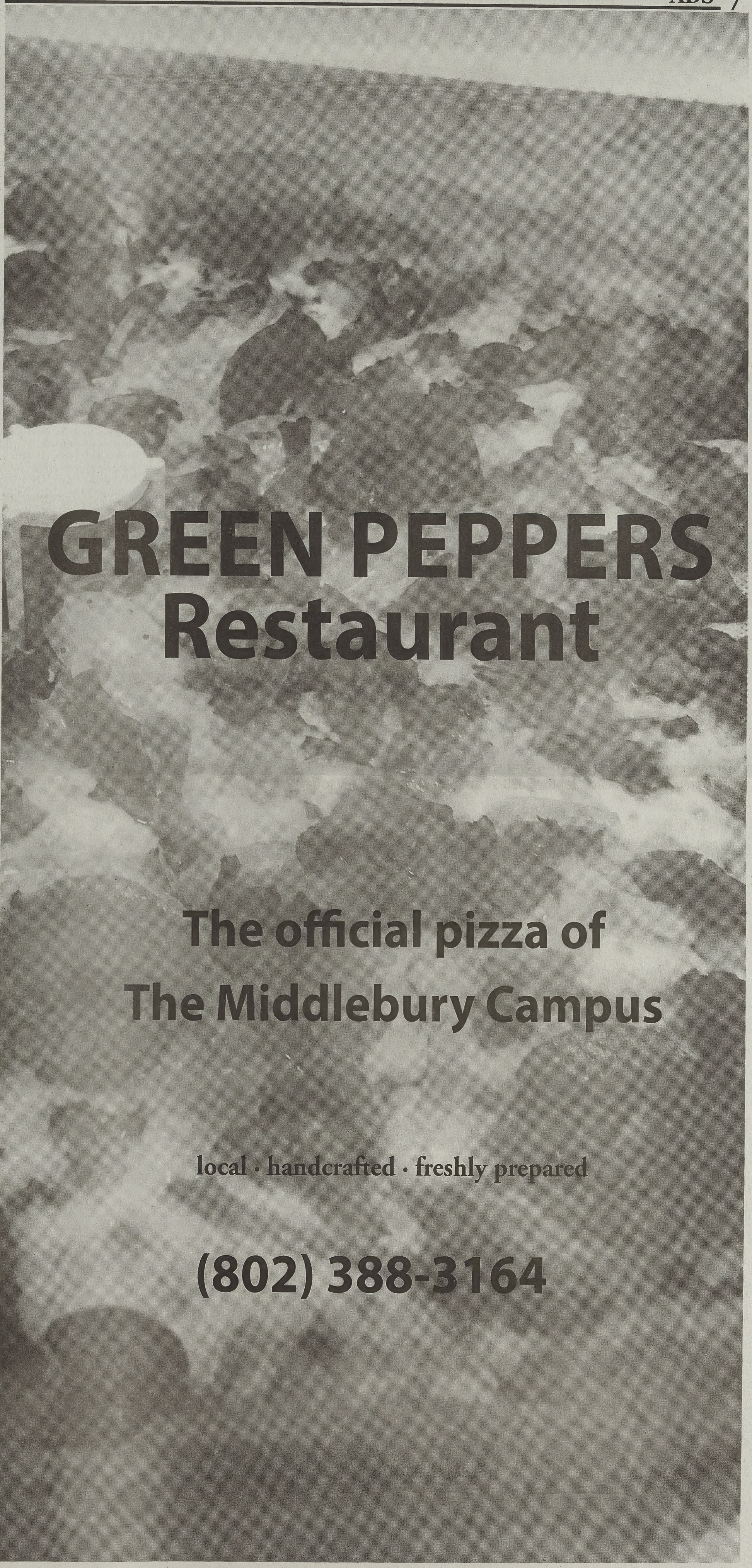
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College solar farm sparks town-wide debate

By JACK SUMMERSBY
Contributing Writer

Middlebury College is developing a new five megawatt solar farm south of campus in an effort to reach 100% renewable energy usage. The solar installation, which will cost between 8 and $9 million, is being built in collaboration with Encore Renewables, a Burlington-based energy services company, and is expected to be completed during summer of 2020.

Encore representatives forecasted the solar project to meet 30% of the college's electrical usage in a presentation to Middlebury's selectboard last November. Currently, about 50% of the college's electricity — 22 million kilowatt-hours annually — is generated from fully renewable sources (as opposed to fossil fuels).

Some residents have praised the project, but it has not come without its critics, most of whom take issue with the proposed location. The finalized site is a field located 1,000 feet off South Street Extension, which the college chose after deeming several other sites unfit for the size and complexity of the project.

The Middlebury Planning Commission, in collaboration with Middlebury College, proposed the current site off of South St. Extension during an informational meeting on Oct. 24, inciting objections from attendees. A number of town citizens also showed up to a selectboard meeting on Oct. 29 to express concern regarding the finalized location. The Middlebury Planning Commission, in collaboration with Middlebury College, approved the current site off of South St. Extension on October 24. Dec. 5. On Dec. 10, resident Leslie Kameny presented a petition signed by 93 people in the surrounding community to the selectboard hoping the decision to endorse the project would be reconsidered.

MAX PADILLA/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Both the initial and current College Solar Farm location proposals were on South Street Extension (pictured above). The current proposed location is on a plot just west of the Eddy Farm School.

The selectboard met again to deliberate over the project on Dec. 17, voting 5–2 to approve the South St. Extension location. David Provost, the college's executive vice president for administration and finance, explained in an Addison Independent article that the college is committed to collaborating with the town and would work with Green Mountain Power on an energy storage system to support nearby Porter Hospital. Excess solar energy generated would supply power to the hospital in emergency circumstances. The plan has been sent to the Vermont Public Utilities Commission for review.

Will Amidon, a geology professor who has been heavily involved in the logistics of the project, is among the site's critics. "I very much support the solar array but I did oppose the location because I felt like it was located in a gorgeous scenic recreation corridor in a relatively undeveloped part of town," he said last week. When asked about a better location, Amidon mentioned that he would have preferred a location west of Bicentennial Hall. The plans include a required vegetation screen to reduce the direct visual impact of the installation.

Encore employee Derrick Moretz explained that the company initially surveyed "under-utilized" locations like rooftops, parking lots and campus brownfields for the farm. Ultimately, selectboard members voted in favor of sites off South St. Extension since the former locations were deemed insufficient for the scale of the project and the quantity of energy that would be produced.

Other local residents approve of the plans surrounding the construction of the solar farm. Steve Maier, a Middlebury resident and chair of the Climate Economy Action Center of Addison County (CEAC), is generally supportive.

"I think the project will be a significant positive improvement to the aesthetic sense of the area involved," Maier said. "I find renewable energy projects to be beautiful."

Maier acknowledged the plan's imperfections, but concluded that the pros outweigh the cons. "There may be small disruptions for nearby residents, but the benefits to the broader community are much more significant," he said.

Several others have expressed frustration with a lack of openness from the project's planners. Food Studies Professor and Middlebury resident Molly Anderson explained that there were limited opportunities for residents to discuss the solar farm's plan.

"My biggest concerns are about transparency and lack of anything resembling deliberation," Anderson wrote. "There was one selectboard meeting that allowed public input, but the decision had basically been made before that (and had gone to the Planning Commission already)."

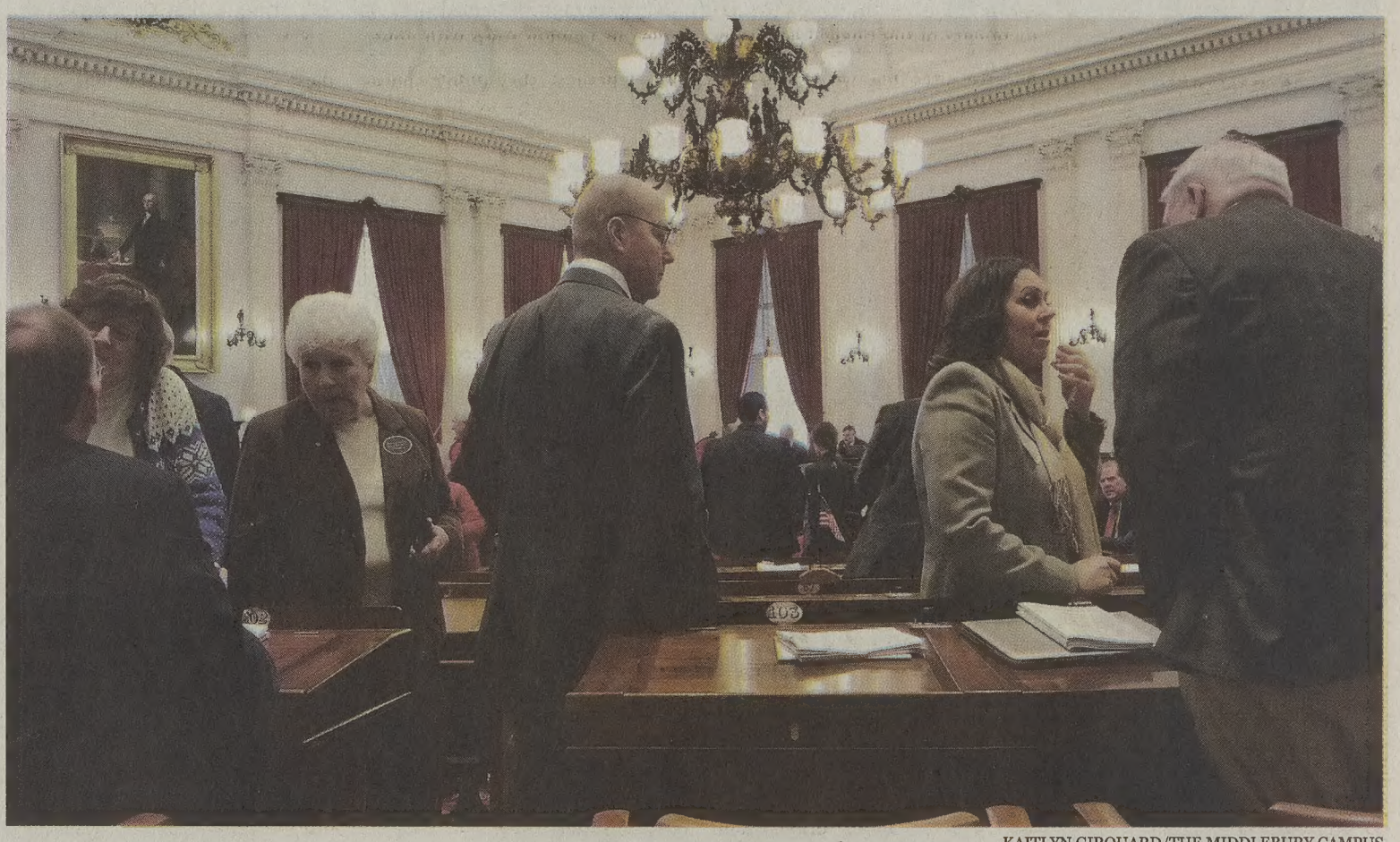
Anderson also considered town-gown relations and potential opportunities, pointing out that the college could have framed the solar farm as a part of a wider strategy to contribute to a town energy plan.

Philosophy Professor and Middlebury Selectman Victor Nuovo, who voted against the project, argued that the decision should have been postponed and did not believe that the entire community had been able to adequately engage in the project. Another critic, Selectman Farhad Khan, expressed concern that the college has not properly responded to the worries of nearby residents.

This is a multi-part story on Middlebury College's proposed solar array farm. Town meeting project minutes and meeting archives can be found at townofmiddlebury.org

Considerations from the Capital: Vermont Legislative Updates

By KAITLYN GIROUARD
Contributing Writer



KAITLYN GIROUARD/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Members of the House of Representatives converse before being called to order by the speaker on Feb. 6. There was unease before the floor session as Democrats spoke with legislators who voted to sustain the governor's veto on paid family leave, asking for them to reconsider.

Electronic cigarettes, climate change, marijuana, the safety of sex workers and paid family-leave are all topics that have come before the Vermont General Assembly this year. The topics have caused consequential debates about what is, and what is not, best for the state.

Electronic cigarettes and vaping products have become increasingly prominent in recent years, prompting legislators to propose bills addressing these devices and their markets. The 2020 session brought a proposed ban on menthol products, which was met with significant pushback from the tobacco industry. The bill as introduced (H.823) proposes "to ban the sale or possession of flavored cigarettes, flavored e-cigarettes, and flavored substances that contain nicotine or are otherwise intended for use with an e-cigarette."

Led by Representative Jessica Brumsted (D-Shelburne), over thirty members of the House sponsored bill H.823. Brumstead explained teenage use of flavored vaping products underpinned her sponsorship. "Those who start using e-cigarettes while in their teens are four times more likely to become traditional cigarette smokers than teenagers who do not," Brumsted said.

The General Assembly has made multiple efforts to combat the health effects of e-cigarettes and similar products, including the 'Tobacco 21' bill passed last year to ban the sale of and use of tobacco products for people under the age of 21. Still, the Assembly sees a need for further action.

"We know that by reducing the number of people vaping and smoking, we will also reduce health care costs for our state," Brumsted said. H.823 was read and referred to the Committee on Human Services Jan. 21 of this year.

Legislators are also working on several climate-related bills this session. Senator Ruth Hardy (D-Addison) said this an area of particular importance for lawmakers. "I am a member of the Climate Solutions Caucus, [which] has been working hard since the end of last session to put forth a bunch of different proposals," she said.

Legislators are considering bills to create and meet targets for greenhouse gas emissions, to increase electric vehicle accessibility and use and to create carbon credit programs for owners of forest land, among other bills addressing climate change.

"In Vermont, our number one emissions [source] is automobiles," Hardy said.

Though the effect auto emissions have on Vermont's carbon footprint is immense, its prominence allows lawmakers such as Hardy to address the problem head-on.

"We all have to do our part as individuals because we don't have one big smoke stack it's all coming from, it's all coming from our tailpipes," she said, adding that she wants students to know that the legislature is working to pass "meaningful climate legislation."

"I don't know what the end result will be, but [climate legislation] is something that we work on every day on a number of fronts," Hardy said.

Legislators are also working on cannabis-related issues. S.54 was introduced last year and has been actively worked on to date. The bill proposes the creation of the Cannabis Control Board to regulate "the production and sale of cannabis and cannabis products in Vermont." The senate passed S.54 on March 1 of last year, moving it to the House, where it was referred to Government Operations and then to by Ways and Means. It was referred to Appropriations on Feb. 6 of this year.

Senator Joe Benning (R-Caledonia), a cosponsor of S.54, believes that the need for the bill is simple given the activity that takes place on the black market.

"In the black market, we have no control over who obtains [cannabis], no control over what it contains, and no revenue to promote educational or prevention programs that might help eliminate this and other problems," he said.

Benning said that the bill, if passed, would introduce a method of distribution that would take on an educational stance, monitor product quality, and prevent minors from accessing cannabis. Benning said too that the bill generates revenue to put towards prevention and rehabilitative programs, including law enforcement efforts.

One bill gaining national attention this session is H.569, an act relating to prostitution. The bill as introduced reads that, "It is the intent of the General Assembly to repeal the laws pertaining to prostitution between consenting adults, while retaining strict prohibitions and criminal penalties for human trafficking." H.569 was referred to the Committee on Judiciary Jan. 7 after a first reading.

The 2019 session also included a proposal that creates a Paid Family Leave Insurance Program within the Departments of Labor and Taxes. This program is funded by contributions from employers and employees as part of H.107. Following a sustained veto from Governor Phil Scott (R), sponsors of the bill reformed and brought a new version of the bill to the legislature in the 2020 session. Gov. Scott vetoed the bill again on Jan. 31, 2020 in accordance with his promise to not raise taxes. The bill then returned to the House where the assembly sustained the governor's veto by one vote.

Gov. Scott said he is not opposed to paid family leave but said he is opposed to the notion of raising taxes to sustain a mandatory family leave policy. Gov. Scott talked about his work on a voluntary paid family and medical leave plan in his veto message to the Legislature, Jan. 31.

"Our approach is voluntary for employers and employees," he said in the address. "It can be accomplished more efficiently, affordably and quickly, without a $29 million payroll tax that Vermont workers simply should not be burdened with, and without putting the risk of underfunding on taxpayers."

Representative Constance Quimby (R-Essex Caledonia) explained that the Republicans agreed with Gov. Scott and came together to support his position. The Republican party needed all members present to have any hope of sustaining the veto, given the significant Democratic majority.

"It's a shame that the liberals did not think it was a good idea to 'tweak' the bill and make it a voluntary program so that perhaps all members of the house could have voted for it," Quimby told The Campus.

Legislators are also considering bills relating to electric vehicles, water quality, gun regulation and other points of interest. More information about activity in Vermont's capital can be found at legislature.vermont.gov.

Editor's note: Senator Ruth Hardy (D-Addison) is the spouse of Prof. Jason Mittell, The Campus' academic advisor. Any questions may be directed to campus@middlebury.edu.

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Skip "transparency:" we want clarity

Three weeks ago, the Middlebury College Republicans (MCR) published an op-ed titled "An Invitation to Reengage." In the piece, MCR co-presidents Dominic Aiello '22.5 and Brendan Philbin '21 announced Charles Murray's return to Middlebury's campus this March. Aiello and Philbin say they invited Murray to discuss his latest book, "Human Diversity: The Biology of Gender, Race, and Class."

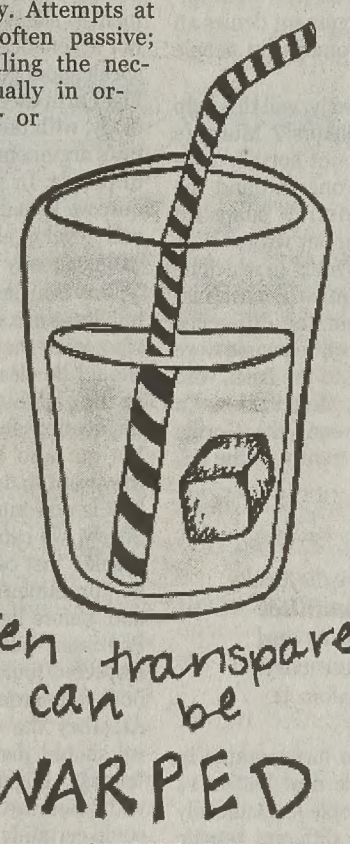
We're not so sure that particular motivation comes across — at least, not in the op-ed.

For one thing, Aiello and Philbin don't mention "Human Diversity" until the fourth paragraph. Even then, their allusion to the "subject of the talk" seems peremptory at best. Nowhere does the piece make any reference, for instance, to Murray's belief that the intellectual orthodoxy surrounding social sciences is faulty, or his claims that recent advancements in genetics and neuroscience undermine this orthodoxy. Really, the other nine paragraphs suggest that the MCR are a lot less concerned with issues of biology, gender, race and class than they are with those related to free speech and protest policy.

That isn't a complete surprise. Anyone on campus in 2017 knows that bringing Murray back inevitably represents an enormously symbolic act. Still, there's a bit of a double standard here: despite repeated calls for "academic inquiry," Aiello and Philbin don't seem terribly interested in the subject of the inquiry they're calling for.

That irony is made worse by the piece's claims at transparency, as the two promise to be "as transparent as possible with [readers] about [their] planning process in order to avoid many of the mistakes made in 2017." To be clear: we think transparency is a good thing. We appreciate the MCR's explanation of their decision timeline, as well as the ensuing planning process around the event. Still, we think the Middlebury community deserves more.

We believe there's a fundamental difference between transparency and clarity. Attempts at transparency are often passive; they involve revealing the necessary details, usually in order to avoid error or scrutiny. Attempts to clarify, by contrast, are active. They're born out of a desire not just to avoid confusion or cover your bases, but to help everyone involved achieve genuine understanding.



SARAH FAGAN

Many of us are still struggling to *understand* the MCR's decision to restage the event. On first reading that Murray is set to return, we'd be willing to bet many students' first reaction wasn't to wonder what the specific date and time of Murray's talk would be, or when exactly Aiello and Philbin proposed the event to administrators. We'd bet that, like us, the news provoked questions of a slightly deeper, more pressing kind. For instance, are we supposed to believe the MCR thinks the Middlebury community will really benefit from the specific research contained between the covers of "Human Diversity"? Or is the event better understood as symbolic, even statement-making?

If so, what exactly *is* that statement (not to mention, how do the MCR believe it's a constructive one for the Middlebury community)? What does the MCR believe that the Middlebury community stands to gain from "engag[ing] diligently and respectfully" with Murray's work on March 31? However helpful some of the logistical details may be, Aiello and Philbin's "transparent" article doesn't come close to answering these kinds of questions. The Campus has reached out to the co-presidents on multiple occasions for elaboration on their decision to bring back Murray, and neither co-president has agreed to meet in person. We believe that anyone involved in re-engulfing Middlebury in such profoundly polarizing debates on campus has a responsibility to make their justification and thought process as coherent and accessible as possible.

The need for clarity extends beyond the MCR. We're left similarly confused by the administration and SGA's roles in the planning process; if the administration was planning the event with the MCR since September, why wait until now to let the broader community know? Why did the initial news come from the MCR (and by way of op-ed), rather than from the administration? At the SGA Cabinet and Community Council's most recent meetings, members discussed the logistics of Murray's upcoming arrival. Because they went into "executive sessions," neither the public nor Campus writers were allowed to sit in. Why not? At very least, haven't the last three years demonstrated the need for inclusive, accessible dialogue?

Murray's anticipated return has, predictably, thrown Middlebury's campus into widespread conversation. And yet for all of these discussions, debates and purported explanations, there remain a lot of questions. Members of the Middlebury community deserve open, thoughtful and — above all else — *clear* answers.

editorial

The editorial represents the opinion of The Middlebury Campus editorial board.

Charles Murray round two — A chance to get it right

"If people are determined to be offended — if they will climb up on the ladder, balancing it precariously on their own toilet system to be upset by what they see through the neighbor's bathroom window — there is nothing you can do about that." — Christopher Hitchens

In 1755, the lexicographer Samuel Johnson published his famous dictionary of the English language. Shortly after his work was distributed, many people in London sought him out to praise him for his work. As the story goes, one group of ladies congratulated Johnson on excluding any inappropriate or indecent words from his dictionary. "Ladies," Johnson replied, "I congratulate you on your diligence in searching for them."

It's easy to hear this story and connect it to contemporary occasions in which individuals go out of their way to find offense with a given author or speaker. Despite my best efforts, I cannot grasp the inner workings of the minds of those who embark upon these kinds of searches.

In some cases, the sought-for offense is more easily found than in others. "The Bell Curve" by the re-invited Charles Murray arguably represents a more obviously controversial publication (as is the case with his newest book). However, the actions of those at the 2017 protest who found offense in Murray's work were far more serious than those of the ladies of London. They were so extreme that, when I was the treasurer of the American Enterprise Institute Club and co-president of the College Republicans in 2017, I could not have envisioned the outrage his presence generated on campus, which culminated in protests governed by a mob mentality the afternoon of his talk.

Would you return to a place that greeted you with, "Racist, sexist, anti-gay, Charles Murray go away?" Perhaps the hundreds of student and non-Middlebury protesters should have been more diligent in the search to be offended — as the ladies in London were with Johnson — because they didn't appear to be relying on accurate information. For example, one could choose to counter their chants by pointing out that Murray was one of the most forthright conservative intellectuals in favor of the Republican Party modifying its platform to support both gay marriage and abortion. Or by pointing out that Murray's calls for a more socially liberal stance on those issues were made in 2013, when gay marriage and abortion were even more unpopular among Republicans than they are today, within just months of President Obama's own 180-degree switch on the issue of marriage equality. But I suppose the protest chant had a nice jingle to it and seriously engaging in a dialogue with "sexist and anti-gay" Murray was much less convenient than reading a half-page summary of Murray's work on the Southern Poverty Law Center's website.

Can I understand why some people were offended by Murray's visit? Certainly. I came to Middlebury with a worldview that was challenged, shattered, built up and shattered again multiple times throughout my time there. But I sought out guest lectures on race, equity, religion; worldviews that often made me uncomfortable in my own skin, clothes and head. My time at Middlebury popped the bubble in which I was raised and forced me to encounter issues on my own through the free expression and engagement of ideas. Patting myself on the back through conversations with ideologically identical friends whose views echoed my own was of no interest or value to me.

Yet, despite running towards these challenges, I not only found the Murray protesters uninterested in engaging with any contrary viewpoints (or even understanding what they were really opposing), but found myself running away from the event. Literally. I still recall that evening in vivid detail, when my brisk pace turned to a full-on sprint as a masked protester (who I assume was not a student) holding a large sign chased me back to my dorm room from the event. I was wearing a suit and tie; I had to be with the bad guy, they figured.

If you didn't feel that the protesters' response — effectively shutting down the Murray event, as well as the events which occurred immediately afterwards — was an embarrassing moment for the college prior to reading this op-ed, I doubt I've convinced you. But for those who are on the fence, having Murray back provides an opportunity to engage without shutting down and redeem the college's stained image in the eyes of many alumni, donors and the general public. Rarely do such second chances present themselves.

If you don't agree with me, I want to leave you with this thought: Consider what would have happened if, instead of attending those lectures to challenge my viewpoints and gain more information, I had simply taken offense to paragraphs posted on Facebook. Imagine if I had organized a group of dozens, or even hundreds, of students to shut down that event. Or pulled the fire alarm three times. Or stood in front of a car carrying Murray and college staff. Or protested with outside professionals on campus, culminating in the concussion of a professor. Imagine if my gut reaction was not to engage, but to resist forcefully something which I hadn't read about and based on my opinion of a speaker whom I heard third-hand. Now, imagine if this was done again. And again. And again. Would that be helpful to anyone? Would it further the college's mission? Would it reflect well on my own (and my peers') cause? Most importantly, would it right the supposed wrong embodied in the offense that was taken?

The views you cherish and express today might be offensive to someone else tomorrow. And if a precedent is set that offense justifies the cancellation of the exchange of ideas on the basis of offense, then you've cut off the very branch upon which you sit. My advice: Be careful not to make yourself a victim of your own actions.

op-ed

***Hayden Dublois '17** helped organize Charles Murray's 2017 visit to Middlebury. Dublois currently works at the Foundation for Government Accountability.*

notes from the desk

***Sabine Poux '20** is The Campus' editor in chief.*

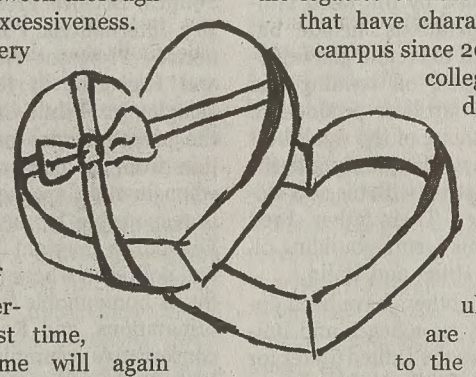
My valentine this year is transparency.

I'm not the only one. In our editorial this week, you'll see our board's collective call for openness and clarity regarding Charles Murray's upcoming visit. In that spirit, it feels only fair that we should pull back the curtain on our own editorial decisions — specifically, those regarding our coverage of Murray's talk and any related stories.

The Campus' goal, first and foremost, is to keep our community informed. Middlebury is small; word travels fast. We are acutely aware of the real consequences misinformation, disinformation and insufficient information can have on the college as a whole. We also realize that, in choosing what to publish, we have a hand in the conversations that take place on campus. It is a duty we take very seriously.

The importance of that role intensifies during campus controversies that lead to national media attention. When stories are picked up by outside media, getting the details right has even higher stakes.

This burden requires us to be especially thorough — but there is a difference between thoroughness and excessiveness. We are very aware of what Murray and other controversial speakers might have to gain from a flurry of media coverage. Like last time, Murray's name will again be splattered across the web this spring. Readers will order copies of his book to see what the buzz is about, both in odious rage and genuine curiosity. From Murray's point of view, the phrase "no press is bad press" definitely applies.



With all this in mind, here's what you should expect from us.

Over the next few months, we will grapple with finding equilibrium between covering Murray's visit sufficiently and covering it to a point of oversaturation. There are many important questions our reporters and editors plan on asking. We want to know more about the legacies of hurt and healing that have characterized the campus since 2017; how the college plans on deploying its security resources on the day of the talk; how students, faculty and staff are responding to the College Republicans' invitation, as many already have in the opinion pages of this newspaper.

And of course, we will be at Murray's talk — and any concurrent counter-event or protest — with our video cameras and notebooks. Those reporting the story in 2017 made a conscious decision not to publish coverage until they were certain they had all the details right. We will operate with the same sense of care while also treating matters with the urgency they deserve.

You should not expect, on the other hand, that The Campus will become a Murray publicity machine. Murray's visit is big, no doubt, but there is more to Middlebury than that visit. We will continue as usual with the full gamut of news and feature reporting that characterizes The Campus week after week, from symposia to sports games to your op-eds.

In other words: if you're looking for clickbait, look elsewhere.

If you have any questions or concerns about The Campus' reporting, on the subject of Charles Murray's visit or otherwise, please email us at campus@middlebury.edu.

Cartoon by Bochu Ding.

On engaging with Charles Murray

Charles Murray came to prominence in 1994 by arguing in "The Bell Curve" that black people and Latinx people are genetically less intelligent than white people. He doubled down on these arguments and, for good measure, added more about women's "innate" genetic differences from men in articles like "Deeper Into the Brain," and books like "Human Accomplishment: The Pursuit of Excellence in the Arts and Sciences, 800 BC to 1950." He staged a cross burning as a senior in high school in 1960, at the height of the Civil Rights movement. At no point has Murray recanted or revised these arguments.

Thus, when we are told by a student group led by former governor Jim Douglas to "engage diligently and respectfully" with Murray's "controversial ideas" that are "influential in mainstream politics" in order to "develop as thinkers," we are left with more questions than answers. First, Murray's ideas are sadly mainstream. The argument that people of color are genetically distinct from, and inferior to white people is several hundred years old, and Murray's pseudoscience has existed in various forms long before "The Bell Curve" was published. In the 19th century, these arguments were justified by the pseudoscientific use of calipers, and though the methods have changed, the logic has not.

Second, we agree that Murray's arguments, and the arguments upon which Murray has built are "influential." But what is the influence they have had? The idea that people of color are genetically distinct and less intelligent than white people has been used to justify policies and practices that, among other things, promoted unequal medical treatment, justified slavery and kept places like Middlebury College all white at their founding. The idea that women are genetically distinct and less intelligent than men has been used to justify preventing women from gainful employment, barred women's suffrage, and again, kept places like Middlebury College all male at their founding. If you believe Murray's arguments, there are certain, unmistakable implications for how the world and places like Middlebury should be constructed. Jim Douglas and the College Republicans should be clear about this.

Third, as noted above, Murray's fundamental argument is that people of color are genetically less intelligent than white people. In what way are people of color and/or women and/or their allies supposed to "engage diligently" with this? How are they supposed to "respectfully" debate the claim that they are inferior? The entire basis of this argument denies an equal footing to women and people of color.

Fourth, how, exactly, will this help us develop as "thinkers"? Murray's claim that race is not socially constructed is just wrong. Around the same time that Murray published The Bell Curve, Ignatiev wrote "How the Irish Became White," in which he pointed out that similar deterministic arguments about the difference between black and white people were in the past applied to the Irish, who were at one point described as "a missing link [between] the Gorilla and the Negro." Currently, in the US,

op-ed

The undersigned are the faculty members of the ***Committee on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.*** *This piece was first published online on Jan. 31.*

the Irish have been incorporated in the group of people now known as white. Did Irish people miraculously develop an entirely different genetic code between the 19th and mid 20th century? Of course not. Moreover, who is "genetically" black? Modern genetic research has shown that certain genomes tend to predominate in certain parts of Africa, and others elsewhere. However, some people who are coded black, and who live in the world as black, do not have these genomes. Further, some people who are coded white, and who live in the world as white, do. If a person has half genetic ancestry from Africa and half from Europe, are they black? What if they have a quarter of their genome from Africa? Or one eighth? If one-eighth African genes and seven-eighths European genes are enough to call someone black, which genes in that one eighth must be present to make that distinction? From which part of Africa? Are aboriginal people in Australia black? They certainly get coded black. Those questions have been determined in the post-slavery era not scientifically, but politically. Murray's genetic deterministic argument is silent on this, because he is not a geneticist. Inviting Murray to speak about genetics is like inviting a Flat Earth theorist to speak about geology, with the distinction that Murray's arguments are directly harmful to people. In neither case is it clear how we actually advance knowledge and develop as "thinkers" by re-litigating already debunked theories.

Jim Douglas and the College Republicans are, of course, free to invite whomever they wish. However, they should be clear about why they are inviting certain people, and what the implications for these invitations are. We are also left wondering where they want to draw the line on speech that is non-intellectual and harmful. Surely, we cannot justify bringing a speaker just because they happen to be "prominent." Both David Irving and, before he died in 2018, Robert Faurisson published extensively in respected journals and presses, and both were ardent Holocaust Deniers. Are they the sort of people whom we should invite to Middlebury, to "engage diligently and respectfully" with? Because using this criteria, we could certainly get there.

Signed,

The Committee on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Kemi Fuentes-George, Political Science

Erin Eggleston, Biology

Chong-suk Han, Sociology

Laurel Jenkins, Dance

Daniel Silva, Luso-Hispanic Studies

Shawna Shapiro, Writing and Rhetoric

Trinh Tran, Sociology

Revisiting speech and inclusion

Dear Middlebury faculty, students and staff,

As the faculty members of the Committee on Speech and Inclusion, we write to the community to offer an initial response to the news that Charles Murray has been invited back to Middlebury. After Murray's visit in spring 2017, the Middlebury College administration convened our committee, consisting of staff, faculty and students. We came to this committee with different viewpoints on speech and inclusion, and were charged with engaging in dialogue about the complex and divisive issues concerning the relationship between these two values. Despite our diverse perspectives, we were nevertheless able to make recommendations about how the community might deal with similar events in the future. Overall, we hold that both of those values — open discussion of ideas and inclusion of diverse people — are essential to the healthy functioning of the college. Our deliberations informed our January 2018 report, available here.

The freedom to explore and discuss any question or topic — no matter where it leads — is a cornerstone of academic inquiry and freedom. Having said that, such questions are never explored in an abstract intellectual space but in specific social settings. Although the motivation to explore may be absolutely innocent, the effects on some members of our community, and especially on marginalized groups, are sometimes far from benign, and may lead to dignitary harm. We do not support policies that prevent sponsors from bringing whomever they wish to campus, or that shut down speakers once they are invited. Nonetheless, we encourage hosts and potential sponsors to think seriously about how issues of power and privilege complicate arguments about free speech. For marginalized groups, the ideal of a public sphere as a level playing field where all can freely express themselves is far from the reality of their experience.

In the coming weeks, we invite all members of the Middlebury community — hosts and audience members — to be conscientious about the choices they make in relation to events they organize or attend. First and foremost, we encourage hosts to consider formats and venues that facilitate audience engagement with the speaker and create space for the expression of multiple viewpoints within their event. By the same token, we remind students, staff and faculty that when productive dialogue and exchange of ideas are not feasible, creating alternative events in which opposing views can be heard may be an effective response. For those who have already dedicated substantial time and energy to the consideration of Murray's ideas, we understand and support them if they decide not to attend or engage.

While we do not need or wish to play a leadership role in this moment, we have been talking about divisive ideas like Murray's for years, and we hope to continue to do so in a way that will strengthen our relationships and improve our understanding about how to balance speech and inclusivity on our campus.

Sincerely,

Ata Anzali, Associate Professor, Department of Religion

Kemi Fuentes-George, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science

Sarah Stroup, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science

Marion Wells, Professor, Department of English and American Literatures

op-ed

The above faculty are the members of the ***Committee on Speech and Inclusion.*** *This piece was first published online on Jan. 23.*

Charles Murray, once again: Undoing three years of community healing

Dear colleagues and students,

Once again, members of the college have invited a bigot — a "race scientist" per a description in "Superior: The Return of Race Science" — to campus to share his non-peer-reviewed and long-debunked postulations on racial, gender and class difference. As the college's hub of expertise on issues pertaining to race and its many intersections with gender, sexuality, class and disability, the Center for the Comparative Study of Race and Ethnicity (CCSRE) vehemently and unequivocally condemns and opposes the invitation of Charles Murray to Middlebury College.

Many of us at the CCSRE, as scholars of critical race and ethnic studies, have had the unfortunate experience of reading Murray's books. His writing represents a continuity of eugenic thought that has codified and legitimized white, masculine supremacy. The pseudo-scientific claims made by Murray invalidate people of color, women, queer and trans people, and the poor and working class while covering up truths of structural oppression.

One has to question why such mediocrity has been accorded such success and acclaim. The answer to that question lies in white supremacy. This also begs the question of why Middlebury College is collaborating with his publicity machine. Are the voices of cynical provocateurs like Murray more important than abiding by the standards of "three pillars of academic freedom, integrity and respect" that have been written into Middlebury College's very own Open Expression Policy?

Charles Murray is not and has never been an academic. He has never been concerned with meaningfully engaging with critical race scholarship. Therefore, the narrative pushed by him, his supporters and his financial backers — that his work merits serious consideration — is ironic and laughable. Moreover, the specific goal of his work has never been to contribute to rigorous academic thought, but rather to provoke for self-interest, to support revanchist ideologies and to promote ultra-conservative public policies in the United States that disfavor people of color, women, queer-identifying people and the socioeconomically vulnerabilized.

Murray's work and entire career have been funded by conservative reactionary policy institutes such as the Manhattan Institute and, for the last 30 years, the American Enterprise Institute (where he is the W.H. Brady Scholar — a misleading academic title from an institute that is not academic, but rather a conservative think tank). The latter is funded and governed by wealthy donors and/or leaders of some of the largest corporations with vested interests in maintaining structural inequality by using money to promote their ideas in politics and the academy.

Charles Murray has been invited here once again not to engage in intellectual dialogue and debate, but to provoke the community into engaging in a zero-sum debate while trying to sell his new book. This provocation is obviously in his personal interest; still, many in our administration seem to feel that it is easier to allow him to speak than to repair our community, while risking further damage.

Many of the faculty, including those affiliated with the CCSRE, have worked in good faith to repair the community after his last visit on March 2, 2017. We sponsored and attended events about free speech and inclusion, including talks held by the Engaged Listening Project. And yet we are certain that those who have invited him are not acting in good faith, nor are they doing the work to treat this topic in the manner we expect from those at an academic institution. When have Murray and his backers expressed interest in deeply engaging in the vast scholarship about the histories and current realities of inequality, racism and sexism?

There are also political interests among Murray's financial backers to bring him to Middlebury; in particular, they seek to provoke a reaction which will be narrated in mainstream conservative and centrist media as a corruption of "American democratic" values. In this way, Murray is effectively a pawn of the political and corporate parties that fund him through the American Enterprise Institute and other right-wing financial channels. This is not a question of free speech, but rather of wealthy corporations and elites protecting their interests in systemic inequality by attempting to hijack academic discourse while redefining freedom of speech as speech free of consequences.

His presence here stands in opposition to the work and mission of the CCSRE and many of its affiliated faculty members across departments and disciplines. For those who are interested in meaningful intellectual work on race, the CCSRE has an array of academic programming from peer-reviewed and respected scholars of critical race and ethnic studies. You can access those at go/ccsre.

Signed,

Members of the CCSRE Advisory Board

Daniel F. Silva, Associate Professor of Luso-Hispanic Studies and Interim Director of the Center for the Comparative Study of Race and Ethnicity

Tara Affolter, Associate Professor and Director of Education Studies

Raquel Albarrán, Assistant Professor of Luso-Hispanic Studies

William Hart, Professor of History and Director of Black Studies

Rachael Joo, Associate Professor and Director of American Studies

Trinh Tran, Assistant Professor of Sociology

op-ed

The above faculty are the members of the ***CCSRE Advisory Board.*** *This piece was first published online on Feb. 9.*

We don't need a Koch sponsored Green New Deal

Did you know that an on-campus organization accepts money from fossil fuel billionaires? The Alexander Hamilton Forum (AHF) supposedly offers students "an opportunity to think critically about the relevance of political and constitutional theory to a range of contemporary debates in American public life," according to its site. The forum, however, receives funding from the Institute for Human Studies (IHS), an organization that has received over $35 million from the Koch family — who runs one of the largest oil and gas conglomerates in the country and is one of the largest forces guiding the right-wing agenda. Charles Koch currently sits on

op-ed

Tara Santi *is a member of the class of 2020 and* ***Lucy Weiss*** *is a member of class of 2020.5.*

the IHS Board of Directors.

On Feb. 20, the AHF will host a debate between two scholars arguing whether or not we need a Green New Deal. You may have seen the posters around campus — seems fine, right? Somebody arguing "Yes, we need one," and somebody else arguing "No, we don't." Yet while this debate may seem innocuous at first, the AHF's agenda in hosting this event is not harmless. When the AHF hosts "discussions" and "debates" like these, it undermines the validity of progressive ideals. The speakers don't have to disprove every argument as long as they can plant doubts in our heads. By hosting the debate, the organizers of the forum choose which questions to ask, therefore reinforcing and normalizing discourses that question climate activism.

A debate, even if it contains two differing opinions, is not a politically neutral event. Context matters! And in this context, an organization funded by Big Oil money is organizing a dialogue about a congressional resolution that would rapidly transition the country away from oil. This Big Oil money is Koch Industries, a company owned by the Koch family whose operations include but are not limited to oil and gas exploration, pipelines, oil refining and chemical and fertilizer production. Charles Koch, one of the wealthiest people in the world, jointly inherited Koch Industries with his now-deceased brother. Their father, Fred Koch, made his fortune building oil refineries for Hitler and Stalin.

The Koch brothers have been donating money to colleges and universities across the United States for decades. This funding often comes with strings attached, allowing Koch Industries to influence hiring and curriculum decisions. One notable example occurred at Florida State University in 2007, when the Charles Koch Foundation offered their economics department millions of dollars under several conditions: the curriculum would align with Charles Koch's deregulatory economic philosophy, the Foundation would partially control hiring of new faculty members, and Bruce Benson would remain chair of the economics department. Benson noted that "If we are not willing to hire such faculty, they are not willing to fund us."

Taking the AHF's funding into account, we want to question why the forum is hosting a debate on the Green New Deal. The AHF hosts various speakers and debates on campus, and is directed by Political Science Professor Keegan Callanan; on its steering committee are Political Science Professor Murray Dry, International Politics and Economics Professor Allison Stanger and Executive in Residence Jim Douglas '72. While Callanan claims the program does not take direction from its conservative donors when inviting speakers, the forum is responsible for inviting Ryszard Legutko, a far-right Polish scholar and politician whose party is known for its homophobic and xenophobic orientations, and Ross Douthat, a conservative columnist for the New York Times who promoted American exceptionalism when he came to Middlebury in the fall.

Given the AHF's funding and the previous speakers it has brought to campus, we doubt the forum is inviting speakers in a good-hearted attempt to practice democracy and explore in earnest two sides of a debate.

This concerns us. The Green New Deal is certainly not perfect, but it represents an attempt by members

of Congress to foreground the struggles of indigenous, marginalized and working class people in a transition to clean energy, stable jobs and a more equitable world. It is unique in its unrepenting and progressive vision of what this country could be. The debate hosted by the AHF chips away at students' struggle to enact transformations towards justice by dictating the terms of our discussions, and by silently and coercively controlling what kinds of climate action appear reasonable.

To affect students attending the debate, the AHF simply has to introduce enough doubt about the Green New Deal that it no longer seems to be a viable option. To Koch Industries, apathy or confusion is just as good as outright opposition; it means fewer people will support any change to the status quo.

We want to be clear that we are not arguing against open dialogue and debate. Dialogue, especially on college campuses, is vital to shaping informed opinions. But we do not support debates on environmental issues when these debates are indirectly sponsored by the fossil fuel industry. The AHF cannot possibly

provide a fair and two-sided representation of

political opinions in this context. Koch money has no place in our college.

Because we refuse to let a group funded by fossil fuel tycoons dictate the narrative of campus events, a group of students will host an open, alternate event at the same time to discuss resistance on Middlebury's campus: "What Does it Mean to be a Student at Middlebury in the Age of Climate Catastrophe?: A Koch-Free Conversation." Occurring on Thursday, Feb. 20, from 4:30 to 6 p.m. in Axinn 219, this event is for anyone who thinks there is something wrong with allowing Koch-funded groups to host events on Middlebury's campus and who wants to do something about it.

Luckily, students have been resisting for years. We want to have our own dialogue, one where our voices and your voices are heard and considered. Students will provide an introduction to activism at Middlebury and connect various campaigns across campus against injustice. That means when you show up, you have a hand in forming both the discussion and the future of resistance at Middlebury.

Rather than once again debate the validity of the Green New Deal, we're asking: What bothers you? What angers you? What scares you? Where do you see injustice? Unlike those organizing the AHF debate, we want to know who you are and hear your responses.

Let's have a conversation, Koch-free.

To the editor:

The Middlebury College Handbook bans bigotry and intolerance from the campus: "Middlebury College is committed to maintaining a diverse and inclusive campus environment where bigotry and intolerance are unacceptable."

As appearance on campus by avowed racial bigot Charles Murray is, therefore, "unacceptable," who will enforce the college handbook rule now? In 2017, the administration left it to students to create an event enforcing this college handbook rule. Then, the administration punished 70 of the students for doing so.

The administration continues to pretend that the handbook provision does not exist. But its inclusion in the college handbook means the question of bigotry on campus is beyond debate: the question was answered and settled long ago. Bigotry is not a free speech matter at Middlebury. Bigotry is "unacceptable" at Middlebury. That means Charles Murray and his ilk are unacceptable on campus. If the administration fails to enforce its own handbook, it is the administration, not the students, who must be punished.

letter to the editor

***James Marc Leas** is a Vermont patent attorney who writes about constitutional, civil, and human rights matters for local and national publications.*

Understanding Kobe Bryant's death as a non-sports follower

As a non-sports follower, I initially found myself confused by the overwhelmingly emotional response to Kobe Bryant's death. My boyfriend called me in tears, struggling to comprehend how Kobe could die so unexpectedly in a helicopter accident. I wondered why he appeared to be experiencing the five stages of grief for someone he'd never met, someone who knew nothing of his existence. At the same time, I was riveted by the outpouring of emotional Kobe-related posts all over social media. As a prospective Psych major, I wanted to understand why Kobe Bryant's death sparked such a widespread, national response, temporarily drowning out even news around the then-ongoing impeachment trials. And so I set out on a Feb break research project, largely consisting of a very long phone call with my boyfriend. I then tried to finalize my theory. I synthesized my boyfriend's understanding of Kobe's significance to him personally, and broadened his thoughts about the event to gain an idea of the cultural significance. After much thought, I have come to believe Kobe's death hit a national nerve because he helped to create a collective ideal. He not only made us part of his successes that often pushed the limits of the human mind and body, but his death has served as a reminder of our own mortality.

Kobe united much of the nation, and his reach extended beyond the world of basketball. I was initially confused why other recent celebrity deaths, while shocking, did not spark such a collective outpouring of grief. We loved Mac Miller and Juice Wrld, but we didn't aspire to live like them. People aspired to be like Kobe. Kobe was the player who was mentally tough enough to shoot two key free throws with a torn achilles to help the Lakers win before limping off the court. He was a self-actualized star, a positive role model and a true team player. Few people get tweets from both Trump and Obama when they die. In many ways, Kobe transcended politics, serving as a commonality in the rapidly decreasing common ground between members of opposing parties. He unified millions in a positive celebration of the feats of the human body and mind, which have a universal appeal and surpass the confines of political beliefs that deeply divide our nation.

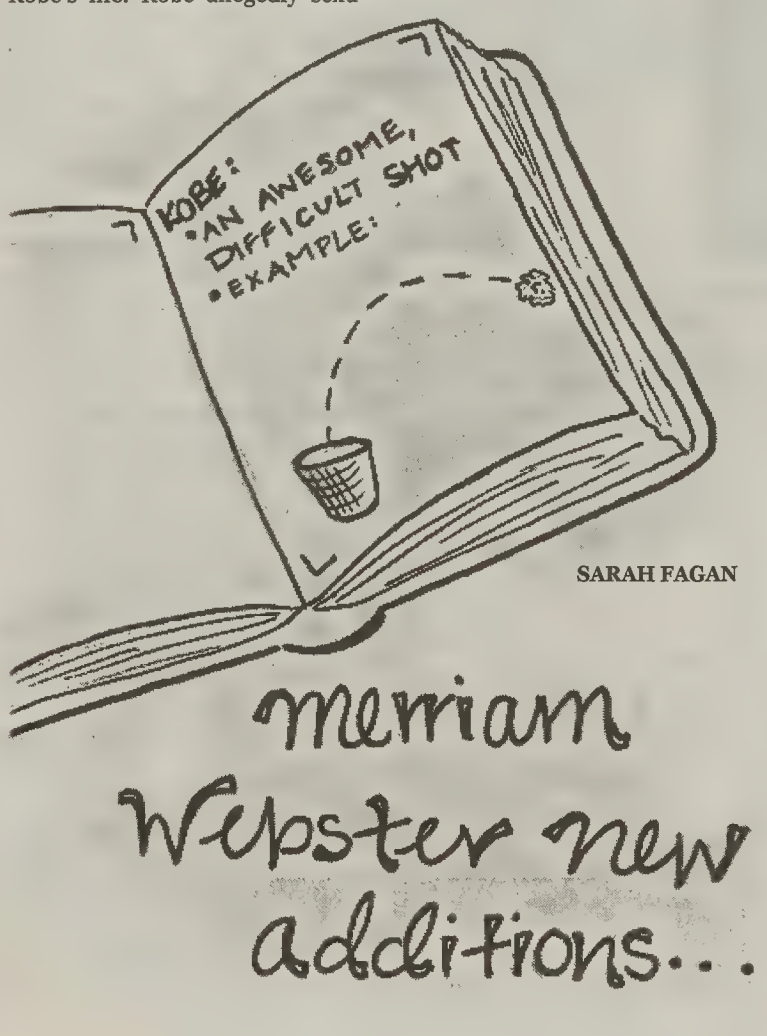
I would like to note that there is one much less unifying facet of Kobe's life. Kobe allegedly sexually assaulted a woman in 2003. Interestingly, my boyfriend avoided this topic to me when explaining Kobe's legacy. I have noticed a similar trend in most media as those mourning Kobe fail to even acknowledge this allegation. Notably, the Washington Post suspended a reporter who tweeted about Kobe's alleged assault upon his death — an example of an active effort to silence those who question his generally positive legacy. While I do worry about the implications of such silencing for the "Me Too" movement, I refrained from further exploration of this area to focus my investigation on fans grieving Kobe who remained radio silent about the alleged assault. It is certainly difficult to reconcile that someone so nationally adored may have used his power for abuse.

op-ed

Anna Kim is a member of the class of 2023.

In the face of Kobe's relentless drive and unparalleled work ethic, his death served as a staggering reminder that even those who exceed what most other humans achieve in their lifetimes are subject to forces outside of their control, which can end their lives in an instant. His death served as a staggering reminder of our own mortality. Kobe's achievements themselves felt larger than life. At nineteen, Kobe became the youngest player to ever start an NBA game. He had an outstanding career, made millions, and had a beautiful family with whom he was intimately connected. Kobe appeared to be above it all. He gave people an aspirational goal for themselves and for the capabilities of the human body. As a result, many people projected aspirations onto Kobe and felt personally invested in his success. Kobe's death reminded us that our success and our dreams can all disappear at any moment.

Even though I (obviously) am not very into sports, I find it moving how much the nation has come together to grieve Kobe. Perhaps this solidarity in support of a national hero can be channelled into other avenues — as our nation remains fundamentally politically polarized. Further, perhaps a reminder of our own mortality will encourage us to value those relationships that we are often inclined to take for granted.



SARAH FAGAN

Experiences from the coronavirus outbreak in China's capital

I expected to write this column under vastly different circumstances. Today, Thursday, February 13, should have marked the start of Middlebury's semester-long study abroad programs in the bustling Chinese metropolises of Beijing, Hangzhou and Kunming. Over two weeks ago, I finished a month-long intensive language program and was looking forward to traveling with my classmates on our new year holiday break and visiting the Snow and Ice Festival of Harbin and the ancient Mogao Grottoes of Dunhuang.

Instead, I sit writing this piece at home, having repatriated back to the U.S. and a week into self-quarantine. The new year travel period, known as chunyun, is usually the largest annual human migration in the world. Normally, close to 3 billion trips are made over the 40-day period as workers across the country return to their families to celebrate the new year. And yet my new year holiday, like many others', ended only two days after it started, train tickets refunded and plans upended.

Beyond holiday cancellations, the spread of the coronavirus has invoked a sense of fear and xenophobia towards Chinese around the world, causing division and provoking often discriminatory attitudes in shops, restaurants and college campuses. As countries have closed their borders to those from China in an attempt to halt the spread of the virus, disinformation spread through the media has resulted in a perceived global crisis.

So how did we get here?

On Jan. 16, Middlebury students studying abroad in China received an email from Global Rescue, indicating that the "U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ha[d] issued a Watch Level 1 Alert." We were advised to "be aware and practice usual precautions" for an "outbreak of pneumonia in Wuhan, China, preliminarily identified to be caused by a novel (new) coronavirus." iIt was not until the following week, however, on Jan. 21, when I began to focus on the coronavirus outbreak shaking China to its core. The virus was and is believed to have originated in Wuhan, the sprawling capital of central China's Hubei Province and home to 11 million residents.

I visited Wuhan in the summer of 2017 and had fond memories of my time there. Under the blazing heat, I enjoyed dishes of reganmian — hot dry noodles — as I climbed the Yellow Crane Tower for a view of a city larger than New York or London. More than 500 Americans have been evacuated from that same city since the beginning of the outbreak.

From our position in Beijing — over 600 miles away — our group initially felt a sort of immunity to this new disease that few could confirm exact details as to its source and spread. And yet as cases began to pop up in Beijing and throughout the country (as of now, the virus has spread to every region in China), we began to echo the sense of fear and paranoia felt by our Chinese counterparts.

During the final week of our J-term program, residents of Beijing donned masks and started to cancel new year plans. We watched as a typically joyous time transformed into a grim one. Wuhan and the surrounding area went into lockdown and quarantine. Residents in Beijing rushed to the supermarkets and pharmacies, buying every face mask and hand sanitizer in sight. The Chinese government China made an impressive response to the coronavirus' spread, shutting down tourist attractions nationwide and attempting to limit travel on the country's extremely popular rail network. The effects of the virus were felt on a person-to-person level as well. On the eve of Chinese New Year, I had the privilege to be invited to a local

foreign correspondent

***Benjy Renton'21** was The Campus' senior local editor this fall.*

friend's celebration banquet. A depressing undertone filled the air of a usually lively restaurant, as the family next to us removed their masks only to eat.

The following day, I made the decision to continue with our small group's trip up north to Harbin. After analyzing the situation as it stood at the time, I believed that the risk of anyone in our student group contracting the virus was still quite low. However, the country remained on high alert. China's supply of thermometers seemed to quadruple as in every public place, temperature checks became ubiquitous. Even outside walking around Harbin's Snow and Ice Festival, tourists wore masks as security guards pointed thermometers at every entrance.

Still, a day into our trip we received an email from Middlebury's study abroad office, instructing us to return to Beijing and gather in our dorm hotel to await further instructions. The rapidly changing situation meant that each day brought new restrictions nationwide — intercity bus services suspended, the official new year holiday extended, schools and universities cancelled until further notice. Many of our Chinese counterparts spent upwards of a week at home, with friends in Harbin cancelling dinner plans in fear of spreading the virus. Upon arriving back in Beijing, myself and my classmates were all placed in separate single rooms to undergo 14 days of health screening, since we came from outside Beijing. This consisted of three temperature checks throughout the day: one in the morning, one at noon and one at night.

On the few occasions I ventured out during those days, I saw a city unlike the Beijing I had seen before. China's capital had begun to show early signs of a "ghost town." Many gated neighborhood communities in Beijing sealed themselves off from the outside. Taxis and cars sped along Beijing's usually congested streets, with most people inside in fear of spreading the virus. Restaurants closed and dozens queued outside one of the only open eating establishments, hoping for a supply of fresh vegetables to bring home.

On Jan. 29, we woke up to notice from Middlebury that the college had made the decision to suspend all programs in China for the spring semester. The days that ensued consisted of trips to the bank and cell phone store, closing accounts and refunding phone plans. Our group of 24 dwindled as students left on flights operated by airlines that were constantly announcing cancellations. On campus, movement became more restricted as security guards required us to register and inform them of our whereabouts whenever entering or leaving campus. Fast food and takeout became the norm for meals, as they were the only establishments open and involved minimal amounts of close contact. Takeout drivers crisscrossed the city as bags of food piled up in restaurants, waiting to be delivered.

After 37 days in China, I was among the last Middlebury students to leave. On the final night before my repatriation, I walked around an eerily quiet dorm building. I mentally prepared to cut my semester abroad short by more than three months and wondered when I would return.

Leaving China is a privilege. I know that for many in the country, leaving is not an option. Many of my local counterparts have friends and family affected by the coronavirus epidemic. People who have visited mainland China in the past 14 days are currently unable to travel to the U.S. Fear around the global spread of the coronavirus has fueled racism and xenophobia around the world. These thoughts are misinformed and those who believe them fail to understand the vibrancy and diversity of China, its culture and its people. After completing my 19th trip to the Middle Kingdom since 2006, I have every motivation to return. Why? Because this country has given me hope, opportunity and energy, and we should give it the same.

Now is the summer of their discontent: looking at the literary canon

"WE ARE CALLING ON THE STUDENTS OF WILLIAMS COLLEGE TO BOYCOTT THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT," reads the front page of a Google Website put together by a group of Williams students in early November. Dump the structurally racist and whitewashed English program at our liberal arts school, these pro-boycotters plead, for they are "receiving an inadequate education" that "hinders [their] learning."

Oh boy. Here we go.

Before I address Williams directly, let's talk about books for a moment. Those long, almost lost, beautiful blocks with words, ideas, longings, thoughts, and so on. Yes, books. Sweet, sweet books.

More specifically, actually, I'm going to talk about the 'literary canon'. That is — those works of which are deemed superb and worthy of being taught as tools to educate. They are hard and complex by their nature, and they stretch the mind. In effect, they teach one how to think clearly (granted our idea of education still stands).

To start I might claim that all books are not created equal. (Their authors, yes I agree, are, but that isn't the topic of discussion). Some books, most books actually, are simply inadequate when compared to those texts that have, or are expected to, 'stand the test of time'. And this test, you may have guessed, is a difficult one: In order to pass, the text must transcend place, trend and era. No small feat for a fictional tale. Nonetheless, this is the criteria, and writers throughout history have set the bar high. And in the English language, as it so happens, writers throughout history have been predominantly white and male. This creates tension in the classroom, especially given that course reading lists are zero sum games: Every addition demands a subtraction.

For those of you out of the literary-loop, let me set the stage. After the late twentieth century, it was well established that reading strictly the emblematic 'Dead White Males' no longer suffices for the study of English literature. And for this reason, after much argumentation back and forth, the canon was expanded; newer, more diverse voices received spots at the table — Toni Morrison, Chinua Achebe, Zora Neale Hurston, to name a few (all of whom you should read).

SARAH FAGAN

As a result, it largely seemed like the "canon wars" were put to rest. Students were reading and being taught the strongest that has been written in the language and, given that artistic literary genius is not an attribute exclusive to deceased white men, more females and writers of color than ever before could be and still are found on reading lists across the country.

But, alas, the war has been rekindled. And here we are.

Though not exclusive to the typical dead white male demographic, it seems safe to say that literary genius is not found in every soul who ventures to pick up the pen. No matter how hard you try, you cannot democratize brilliance. But as the Williams boycott demonstrates, people will indeed try.

These newer multicultural voices, appropriately added to a canon based foremost on aesthetic merit, are now being dismissed by their very own proponents, those whom I might call amateur radical critical theorists, as "token" instances of ethnic writers in otherwise "whitewashed" syllabi. To be clear, these are the kind of people who loudly proclaim that Shakespeare's popularity and world-renowned status can be solely attributed to nothing less than white supremacy and white hegemony.

To these people, all I can say is that you aren't reading closely enough. You might even be taking classes in the wrong department.

In this increasingly scientific, materialistic age, the humanities are under enough stress as it is. The study of English Literature cannot and should not bend to the will of these radical students who wish to turn it into something along the lines of what I'd dub "Oppression Studies," or something of the kind. Such a department would likely be quite successful in our current academic climate. Still, let the greatest artistic feats of humanity stay where they are. To the braver ones amongst you, maybe even read them. I'm willing to bet you'd learn a lot, potentially even some things you'd wish you hadn't. These timeless texts tend to act as mirrors. They grant you insight into your own soul and teach you who you really are.

Reading Great Works is now an act of rebellion, apparently; have at it, if you dare. And to those Williams boycotters and closed minded students in general, I have one last thing to say. Silencing, boycotting, cancelling... These aren't the answers to your complaints. We need open and free (completely free) debate. I myself am a firm believer in the dialectical method. I think there is a reason why Plato wrote dialogues and not treatises: for it is through discussion that we best come to truth and knowledge. If we throw this idea out the door, I'm not so sure what we'll have left.

op-ed

Quinn Rifkin is a member of the class of 2022.

Reel Critic: "1917"

By OWEN MASON-HILL
Arts & Academics Editor

The capacity for a war film to stand out amongst the infinite library of previous war films lies in its treatment of violence and death — and in its ability to combat war in a novel way. Sam Mendes' "1917" (2019) doesn't have the grandiose scale of "Saving Private Ryan" (1998) or the horrific spectacle of "Come and See" (1985) but it treats the World War I rescue mission with an unexpected intimacy that carries viewer engagement throughout the film's entirety.

On the back of a seemingly docile German retreat on the Western Front, Lance Corporal Blake (Dean-Charles Chapman) and Lance Corporal Schofield (George Mackay) find themselves on a mission to save the lives of an isolated British regiment about to fall into a perilous trap built around the false withdraw. Lance Corporal Blake and his best friend must hand deliver a message to the commanding officer, Colonel Mackenzie (Benedict Cumberbatch), directing him to hold back his 1,600 men from certain death at the hands of the German force, who have been planning the faux retreat for months. Oh, and Lance Corporal Blake's brother is in the regimen — and they only have till tomorrow's dawn to deliver the message. Tick tock.

The duo must journey alone, both for stealth and for quickness, taking only necessities with them. In order to keep the epic trek intimate and continually engaging, Director Mendes and acclaimed Cinematographer Roger Deakins decided to shoot the entire film as if it were a single take, weaving together long moving shots to conjure the effect. To their credit, the visual choice establishes an incredible sense of intimacy with the film's protagonist, centering him onscreen for most of the film's duration, aligning his perspective with that of the audience. For all of the dogged praise being heaped upon the film's cinematography, earning Deakins an Oscar for Best Cinematography, it felt at times as though the technique inhibited the films overall efficiency and ability to match the level of expression exhibited on screen. While some scenes, like when a German plane was shot down and came barreling towards the two Lance Corporals as well as the camera, used the one take rule to great emotional and exhilarating effect, others drag and seem to wait for the camera to play catch up.

DREAMWORKS PICTURES

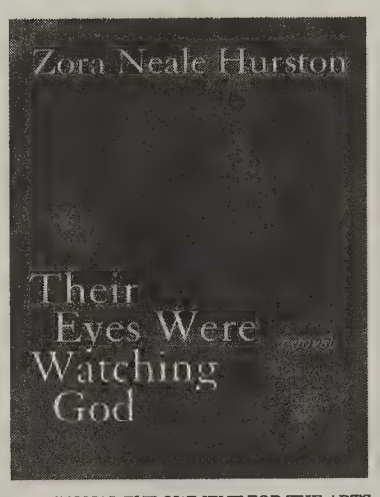
Because the film is a journey, much of it was walking, or some form of it. The slow-moving camera only appeared to make the journey all the slower, and didn't seem to provide any artistic impact other than to abide by the set restriction. That is not to say, however, that the cinematic decision to make the film appear to be one take was not utilized by Mendes and Deakins to create a visually rich and stimulating film. Due to the fact that the camera moved slowly and with deliberate pace, audience members were always craning their heads to see just outside the contents of the aspect ratio, allowing the filmmakers to ratchet up tension at their own tempo. The camera acts as one with Schofield, performing a ballet of motion across the silver screen. When under fire from an unknown direction, Schofield hesitantly cranes his head around the corner of the staircase to find the bullets' origin and so too does the camera, ducking back as each shot buries itself into the concrete just beside him. It is in moments like these that the inspiringly difficult cinematographic choice is rewarded.

The uniqueness of "1917" is in its approach to scale, how the lives of 1,600 men are dependent on one single man. For if Schofield fails in his mission, Colonel MacKenzie will send his men into a trap for which there is no return. So, contrasting other war movies where death is omnipresent and countless soldiers die every scene, "1917" strives to make each life count. For the majority of the film, only one soldier dies yet his loss pervades the entirety of "1917," resonating to the final fade-to-black.

In the end, "1917" creates a more intimate WWI story, yet its greatest asset may also be its primary weakness. It separates itself from the rest of the pack via its novel approach to the war genre, focusing on the people that built the often forgotten moments that saved lives. And while it leaves open some thematic and philosophical threads, of which it starts many, the final handshake and "thank you" make the whole mission seem worth it. Is the final catharsis rewarding and satisfactory? Sure. But could it have been redirected for greater complexity? Of course. "1917" crafts a story that suits itself well amongst its peers, yet it lacks a certain refinement and unpredictability that would propel it into the annals of film history. For now, it remains a perfectly honed WWI picture that stands out for its remarkably personal account of an impersonal war.

The Librarian is In

By KATRINA SPENCER
Guest Columnist



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

Back when I was a senior in undergrad, I enrolled in a class called "Hurston, Hughes and Wright." We read works by recognized, early 20th century, African American authors: Zora Neale Hurston, Langston Hughes and Richard Wright. Perhaps three works by each. And it was then, at age ~20, that I first read Their Eyes Were Watching God. It's Hurston's best known novel and was adapted into a 2005 screenplay in which Halle Berry played the lead. (Love Halle. Not a great film.) I read it differently then, 15 years ago, as anyone might. With nine works to read on the syllabus, and the full intention of preparing close-reading assignments, I read to complete the work, to be prepared to be quizzed on the work and to study — not to enjoy or savor — patterns, motifs, structure, imagistic language, etc. Now, at 35, I revisited the work and listened to respected actress Ruby Dee (God rest her soul) narrate the text as an audiobook and it was a wonderful ride of rich performance, a pleasure to my ears.

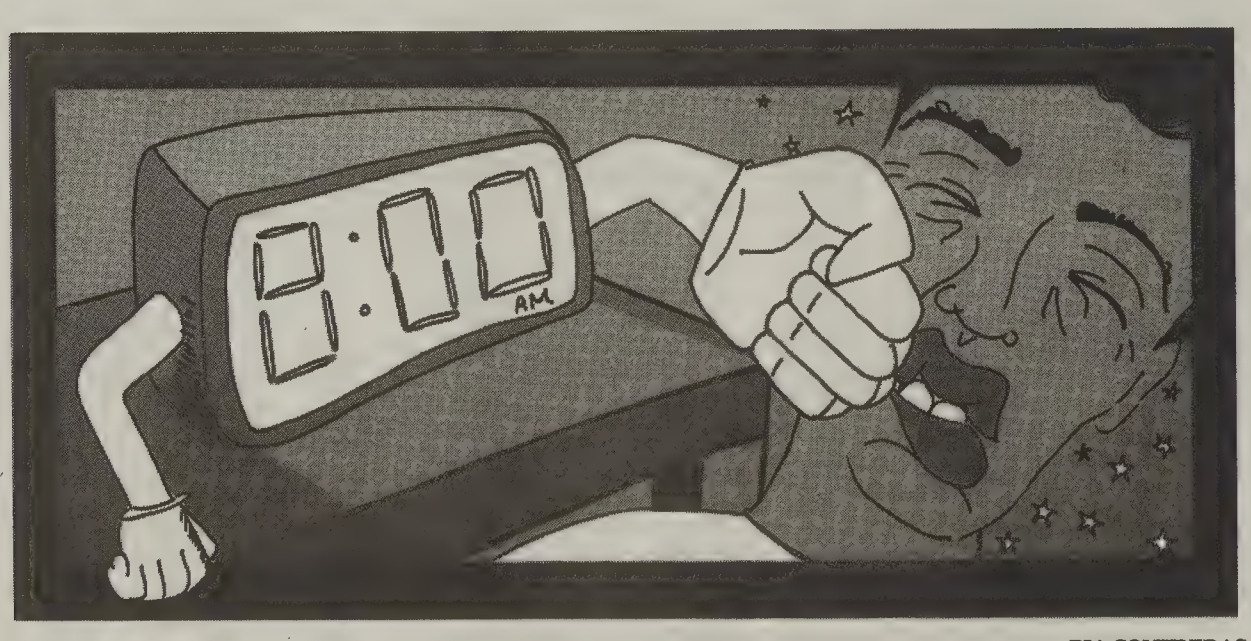
"Complexly put, the novel is about a Black woman navigating her grandmother's generational expectations, her defiance of stifling, patriarchal expectations and having to separate from someone she loves against her will."

Their Eyes Were Watching God is a tale, simply put, of a Southern, Black woman, Janie, who lives out three marriages in the early 20th century. But when is literature ever simple? Complexly put, the novel is about a Black woman navigating her grandmother's generational expectations, her defiance of stifling, patriarchal expectations and having to separate from someone she loves against her will. The tale then becomes a web of economics, affectionate bonds, race, gender-based oppression, travel, displacement, social hierarchies, competition, loyalty, natural disaster and so much more. It's about an early 20th century Black woman creating her own path, even when the road is bumpy, dark and indiscernible.

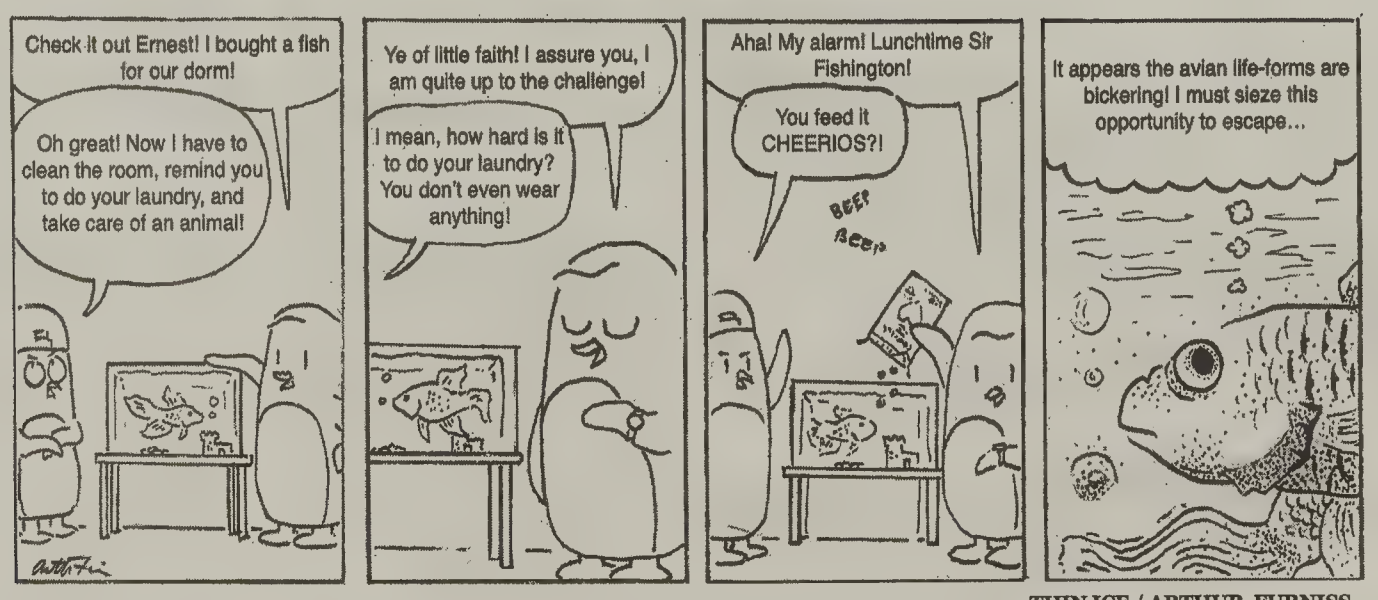
Janie, the protagonist, is raised by her grandmother and when she enters puberty, her grandmother sees her granddaughter's budding sexuality as a threat to Janie's stability. Fearing Janie might pair up with a man with an inauspicious future, Janie's grandmother insists upon marrying her granddaughter off to a man of means, as evidenced by his ownership of land. Spoiler alert: The marriage crumbles. Janie hits the road with another man with big dreams that come to fruition, but Janie becomes more of a trophy than an intimate partner and resentment breeds between the second couple. Spoiler alert #2: When her second husband dies, Janie has the opportunity to live as a 40-something bachelorette, despite the various men circling at her doorstep. It is "tramp"-- a meandering man of no means-- who steals her heart. His most endearing quality is that he places no ideological limits on what she's capable of: shooting, fishing, working, dancing and playing are all welcome in their union, for both parties and they have many adventures together.

"So while the narrative is simple enough to plot, they are the conversations and the questions the book raises that cause a stirring in the reader."

So while the narrative is simple enough to plot, they are the conversations and the questions the book raises that cause a stirring in the reader. "What is marriage?" is the first question asked by Janie's first union. "What is a wife?" is asked by Janie's second. And "What is a loving and loyal partnership?" is asked by the third. The book overall asks, "What social obstacles, traditions and myths do we respect and uphold that might prevent a woman from realizing her greatest potential? Who do they serve? And which ought to be abolished?" Their Eyes Were Watching God is a feminist and womanist work I'd recommend to anyone who sees women as trophies, "domestic angels" or "help meets." To get a better grasp on Hurston's motivations for featuring Black, Southern culture, language and motifs in her works, it is important to learn more about her life and training as an anthropologist. See the graphic novel Fire!!: The Zora Neale Hurston Story by Peter Bagge for more.



PIA CONTRERAS


Check it out Ernest! I bought a fish for our dorm!
Oh great! Now I have to clean the room, remind you to do your laundry, and take care of an animal!
Ye of little faith! I assure you, I am quite up to the challenge!
I mean, how hard is it to do your laundry? You don't even wear anything!
Aha! My alarm! Lunchtime Sir Fishington!
You feed it CHEERIOS?!
BEEP BEEP
It appears the avian life-forms are bickering! I must sieze this opportunity to escape...

THIN ICE / ARTHUR FURNISS

IF GOSSIP GIRL WENT COURTROOM DRAMA

By ELSA KORPI
Arts & Academics Editor

Picture eighteen-year-old Serena van der Woodsen and place her in a cold Northern city with a severely depressed boyfriend. Now, give her a shotgun.

These are the rough outlines of Malin Persson Giolito's 2016 novel "Quicksand" ("Störst av allt"). It is just as clumsy as it sounds.

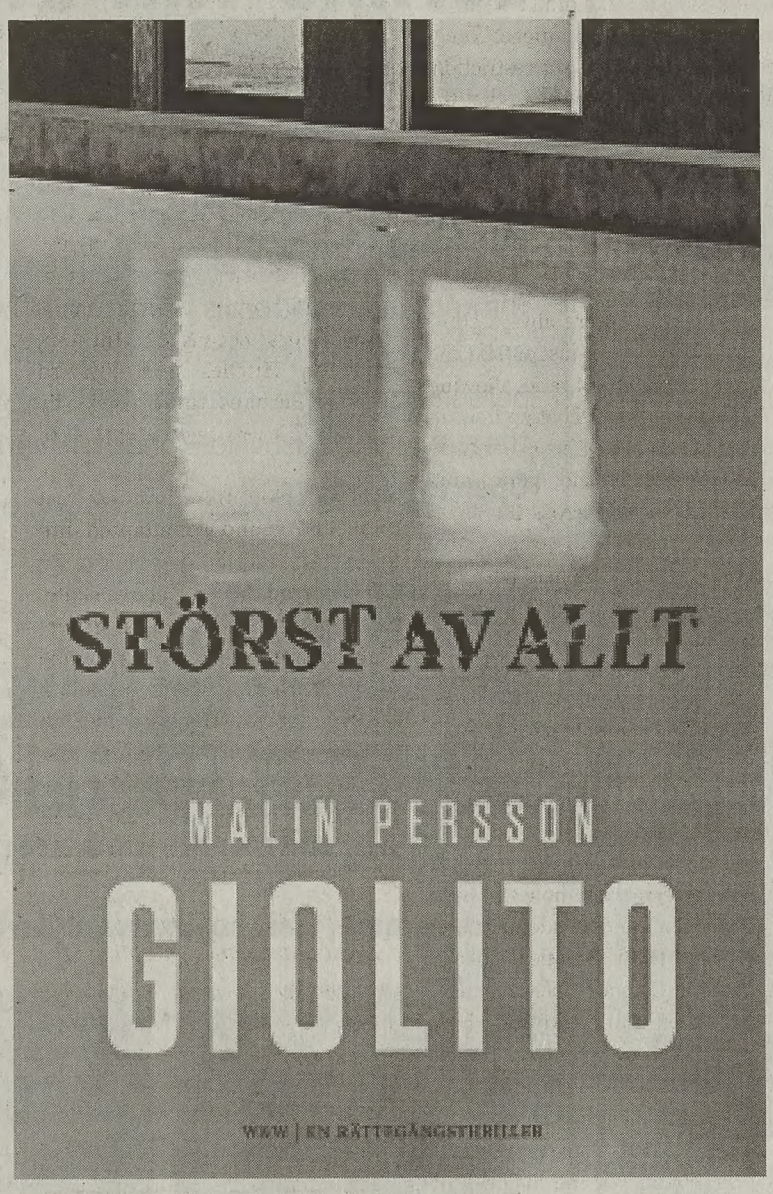
We fall into protagonist Maja Norberg's narration in medias res, as she paints us a bloody picture of her dead boyfriend lying in her lap after the two opened fire in their high school classroom in Djursholm, a wealthy Stockholm suburb. Persson Giolito expands the well-established genre of Scandinavian crime novels and shows off her legal education in her description of Maja's interrogations and eventual trial.

In many ways, the novel trips on its own narration. As Maja is asked to recall the shooting and the events leading up to it in excruciating detail over and over again, the narrative begs to play with the issue of memory. Persson Giolito fails to harness it. Despite the hours that Maja spends in solitary confinement, we at no point see her falling into the traps of her own mind: Am I making this all up? What if the prosecutor is right, what if I did actually intend to kill all of them? Maja ends up as a remarkably flat character with seemingly little capacity for introspection.

Parts of this can admittedly be blamed on translation. In between the lines of Maja's narrative, I could hear the echo of the Swedish original and its habitual quip of cynicism that the English language simply cannot carry. To "Quicksand"'s detriment, the edge of Maja's words just comes off as baseless anger.

Persson Giolito's portrayal of class in Stockholm is unimaginative at best, and much of the novel's stacity derives it. Her narration codes wealth almost exclusively through clothes, jewellery and other material items, and brushes over the many other dimensions of class culture as if by choice. This description reaches its highest level of nuance when we find out that Maja is marginally less privileged than her best friend, as her dress was second hand while Amanda's was bought off the rack. It seems Persson Giolito is so eager to show off the material possessions of her characters that the incisive findings about class in her blurb become an afterthought.

Maja's boyfriend, Sebastian Fagerman, is arguably the most interesting of the characters that the novel has to offer. The son of Sweden's fictional richest man, other characters' behavior around his family makes for interesting observations about the performativity of wealth. Maja mentions on several occasions how anxious her father is about his new money status, and when Sebastian invites Maja to join him on his father's yacht, she makes a point of saying that her mother is probably out buying the most expensive suitcase she can possibly find. Objective socioeconomic status does not mean much when there is a much more affluent person to appease to. It is scenes like this that give Persson Giolito's narrative the hues of humanity that she too often sacrifices for material.



WAHLSTRÖM & WIDSTRAND

Sweden's low Gini coefficient is a lazy excuse for such oversight. If Persson Giolito can dedicate ample space to a lagging description of a business dinner off the Italian coast that adds little to the plot, why is there such a sense of urgency when we finally get on the train to Tensta and have a chance to look beyond the villas of Djursholm? The novel's relentless focus on materialism smells not of a genuine desire to explore and understand the meaning of class in Sweden, but of precisely the opposite.

Persson Giolito's attempt at introducing diverse perspectives through the character of Samir cements this impression. Standing in the assembly hall surrounded by his affluent classmates, Samir challenges a visiting economist on her neoliberalist views while Sebastian predictably heckles him. An awkward exchange about corporate tax rates ensues. Samir's character has the potential for depth and dimension written all over it, but instead the novel resorts to the not-at-all tired trope that, wow, the immigrant kid in cheap trousers can actually be smarter than the rest of them! It does not take a sociologist to see how anticlimactic this setting is.

"Quicksand" is not a horrible book, nor do I regret reading it. It just is not as good as it thinks it is. The question that lingered when I put the book down was not one about inequality or class culture, but why I was reading it in the first place. For style? Hardly. Because the courtroom scenes fed my law school fantasies? Perhaps. In some backward way, the novel reads like an extended metaphor for the things its own characters try so hard to criticise. Even if this is intentional, Persson Giolito's flat narrative style is unable to carry it to term. "Quicksand" lends itself as yet another reminder of the work that stands between Nordic literature and a sophisticated understanding of the changing meaning of class, race and social status in the region.

What went down at the Oscars

By JOHN VAALER
Senior Writer

At the Oscars last Sunday night, "Parasite" became the first non-English foreign movie to win the Academy Award for Best Picture. In addition, South Korean filmmaker Bong Joon-ho won the Oscars for Best International Feature Film, Best Director and Best Original Screenplay for his work on the film.

The film's quadruple victory was unexpected. Awards prediction website Gold Derby projected that "1917" would take the ceremony's top prize. I estimated that the Academy's narcissistic wing would sway towards the new Quentin Tarantino movie, "Once Upon A Time... in Hollywood." Aging mafiosos probably placed their bets on "The Irishman."

In the end, though,"Parasite" won big, making history for international films.

There is even more for "Parasite" to celebrate: Joon-ho's thriller is the most entertaining film to win Best Picture in quite some time. Consider the award's recent winners, including "Spotlight," "Moonlight" and "The Shape of Water." These movies have incredible acting, display beautiful shots and deal with serious themes. However, if the above qualities are the only components of great cinema, then "The Notebook" (2004) is a masterpiece.

"Parasite," unlike the recent Best Picture winners, has spunk to boot. The most violent scenes in "Parasite" owe as much to the Marx Brothers as the Coen Brothers, while the film's slap-stick sequences still play out in a strangely elegiac key. "Parasite" exudes the same moodiness that makes David Lynch's "Blue Velvet" (1986) so fun: You feel as if the filmmakers are taking actual risks.

Below are some of my other notes on the Academy Awards. Before I proceed, though, I must point out that I haven't seen the following Oscar-nominated films: "Pain and Glory," "Harriet," "A Beautiful Day In the Neighborhood," "Jojo Rabbit," "Little Women" and "Ford v Ferrari." I will not pass judgement on these movies, with the exception of "Ford v. Ferrari": does the world really need a grittier, somber, longer version of "Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby" (2006)?

The nominees for Best Actress had my two favorite performances of the year. Charlize Theron impeccably mimics Meghan Kelly's voice and mannerisms in "Bombshell," but, more importantly, she conveys her character's complexity with aplomb. Theron's finest performance to date is still her Academy Award-winning role as Ailleen Wuornos in the serial-killer drama "Monster" (2003), but her take on Kelly is a close second. I walked out of "Bombshell" with a feeling most of us experience just once or twice in our lives: genuine sympathy for a Fox News anchor. All things considered, Renée Zellwegger truly did deserve an Oscar for her performance in "Judy," which tells the story of Judy Garland's late-career London performances in 1969. Half the scenes in "Judy" involve the protagonist popping pills and sipping spirits, and Zellwegger never pulls punches. Near the film's end, a doctor asks Garland: "do you take anything for depression?" She replies, "four husbands.... it didn't work." Uff da, Judy. On top of it all, Zellwegger sings beautifully.

I only saw two nominated performances for Best Actress in a Supporting Role: Margot Robbie in "Bombshell" and Laura Dern in "Marriage Story." In "Bombshell," Robbie portrays a news analyst who is sexually harassed by Fox News CEO Roger Ailes. Especially impressive is how the 29-year old Australian actress quietly conveys her character's grief without much verbal expression.

Laura Dern plays a divorce attorney in "Marriage Story." It's a showier performance than Robbie's, and one sees why the Academy gave her the award.

What gives Robbie's performance my endorsement is that "Bombshell" tells a more enjoyable narrative than "Marriage Story." My general issue with the latter film is that it's so uncompromisingly sad. The action of "Marriage Story" centers around a playwright (Adam Driver) divorcing an actress (Scarlett Johannson). The culminating scene involves one spouse telling another, "every morning I wake up and I wish you were dead." Eeyore, The Blue Donkey did not receive a co-writing credit for "Marriage Story," but one can certainly see his gloomy hoofprints all over the film's script.

Joaquin Phoenix in "Joker" was a shoe-in for the Best Actor Oscar. Phoenix's performance reminded me of Forest Whittaker's take on Idi Amin in "The Last King of Scotland" (2006), which is about as scary as things get.

Brad Pitt's Best Supporting Actor Oscar for "Once Upon a Time... in Hollywood" surprised me. For most of my life, I've considered Pitt a so-so leading man. Consider "Troy" (2004), wherein Pitt's ambiguously accented Achilles looks as if he'd rather go surfing than lay waste the hills of Illium ("Let no mahn foeget hah menahcing we ah; we are lions!")

But that same laid-back attitude is perhaps why the 56-year-old actor works so well in "Once Upon a Time.. in Hollywood": Pitt's portrayal of a chilled-out stuntman trucks along effortlessly. Take the scene where a bare-chested Pitt fixes a TV antenna while enjoying a cigarette. Pitt stops and takes a swig of beer. He smiles at the clouds. Life, one imagines, is quite nice when your six-pack abs are soaking up the California sun.

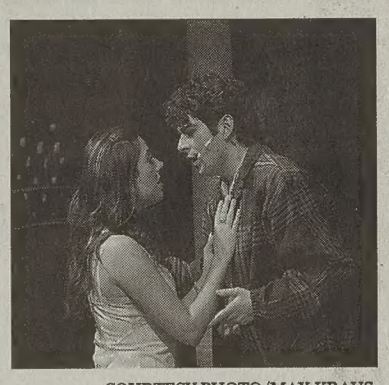
Meanwhile in the theater, I was seriously regretting my purchase of an extra large popcorn and Junior Mints. Any performance that gets me to hit the gym deserves an Oscar in my book.

Young love in the piazza

By EMMA AUER
Contributing Writer

"Happiness can also scar," warns Franca, a central character in this year's J-Term Musical, "The Light in the Piazza." For all its intense romanticism, the musical unflinchingly presented the perils of young love and the challenges of such a relationship across a wide cultural divide. The daring performance charts the rocky love story of a vulnerable American woman, Clara, and Fabrizio, an Italian man she meets while on vacation. Complicating the story, however, is the equally turbulent relationship between Clara and her protective mother, Margaret, whose charming Southern twang hides a tragic secret.

Director Douglas Anderson, Musical Director Carol Christensen and Orchestra Leader Mary Jane Austin harnessed the talents of an immensely skilled cast, crew and orchestra. The production, which ran from Jan. 24 to 27, also received guidance from the musical's composer, Adam Guettel. The resulting show filled the stage with imagination, wit and grace. While the set itself was beautifully spare — its central figures an unreadable clock face and a coy, silent cherub statue — the performance was rather the opposite, dedicated to vivid displays of joy and despair, often in rapid succession. A play described by the New York Times as having "the most intensely romantic score since 'West Side Story,'" the musical had Middlebury audience members swooning in their seats. Michael Koutelos '20 gave a standout performance as Fabrizio, wrenching hearts as he declares his eternal love for Clara (Charlotte Katz '21) in song after song, line after line. Over half the cast, including Koutelos, delivered their lines in Italian, drawing the audience across the Atlantic and into the heart of Italy. Student actor Antonio Antonelli '23, a native speaker of Italian, found the experience "freeing and fun" considering the "musicality" of the language. Most impressive was the cast's immense ability to convey truths through the universal language of emotion.



COURTESY PHOTO/MAX KRAUS

According to Anderson, the musical's score is "one of the most complex ever written for the Broadway stage," thus making it "an enormous challenge for student singers." Still, every singer on stage, not to mention the full orchestra, rose to the challenge, each contributing a heartfelt and meaningful performance. Madison Middleton '22 delivered an incredibly nuanced bid as Margaret, capable of conveying both the bulk of the musical's witty quips and the anguish of a protective mother. The main conflict of the musical, in fact, arises from Margaret's disapproval of her daughter's relationship with Fabrizio due to some unnamed but immense worry. Eventually, Margaret reveals the source of her anxiety: as a child, Clara experienced a tragic accident that left her mentally handicapped, and, as Margaret believes, forever incapable of loving or being truly loved. To make matters worse, Fabrizio's long-suffering sister-in-law Franca (Sofie Leathers '22) demonstrates the dangers of marriage as she watches her adulterous husband, played wonderfully by Antonelli, betray her again and again. Despite the inauspicious signs, Fabrizio and Clara are undaunted by the warnings of Margaret and Franca, their hearts drawn ever closer until, chastened, Margaret concedes to the marriage.

Now in its fifteenth year, the J-Term collaboration between Town Hall Theater and Middlebury College extends beyond the stage and into the far reaches of the town. "The heart of the J-Term show is the interaction between college students and people from the local community and the audience is very much a part of that," Anderson said. Indeed, the musical resonated well with audience member Anita Borlak '23, who remarked that it was "truly a charming love story." Ultimately, "The Light in the Piazza" is a powerful confirmation of love and everyone's right to experience it.

DON'T MISS THIS

Paul Lewis and Steven Osborne, Piano

Paul Lewis is a world-renowned musician. He was awarded the Royal Philharmonic Society's Instrumentalist of the Year, two Edison awards and three Gramophone awards. This appearance will mark Lewis' 22nd time performing at Middlebury. He will be joined by award-winning pianist Steven Osborne, whose 28 recordings garnered much attention in the UK, France, Germany and the U.S.

Wednesday 2/19, 7:30 p.m., Mahaney Arts Center, Robison Hall

Hirschfield International Film Series: And Then We Danced

A 113-minute long tale of love, liberation and coming-of-age set in Tbilisi, Georgia. The story explores the complicated and romantic relationship between Merab, a devoted and competitive dancer, and Iraki, a gifted and rebellious new dancer. The film explores the possibility of sexuality in a conservative society, as well as showcases how rebellion could be expressed through dance and beyond.

Saturday 2/15, 3 & 8 p.m., Dana Auditorium

Spencer Prize in Oratory

The third annual Spencer Prize in Oratory will feature six finalists from different commons, who will each present on a topic they learned about in class and connect it to an issue they care about. This competition is held in honor of the late Professor Emeritus and former Trustee John Spencer. The contestants are judged based on criteria such as compelling connection, persuasive argument and engaging delivery.

Tuesday, 2/18, 7:30 p.m., Mahaney Arts Center, Robison Hall

Community postings

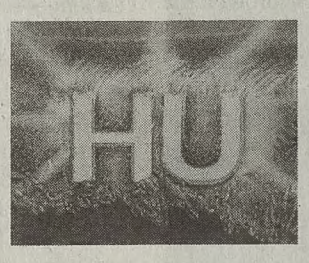
Eckankar Vermont

Animals Are Soul Too!

Time: Thursday, Feb. 20, 6-7:15 p.m.
Location: Ilsley Public Library

Our connection to animals can open our hearts & our lives. Come share the surprising, funny & profound ways animals have brought love or insight into your life. All are welcome to this free open spiritual discussion. Hosted by Eckankar. More info: www.eckankar-vt.org and 800-772-9390

HU Chant: The Sound of Soul



Time: Thursday, Feb. 20, 7:15 p.m.
Location: Ilsley Public Library

Looking for spiritual insight? Try a spiritual exercise to tap your inner truth. All are welcome to a 20 minute HU Chant followed by contemplation and conversation.

Hosted by Eckankar. More info: www.eckankar-vt.org

Spirit in Nature

Spirit in Nature Annual Meeting

Time: Sunday, Feb. 16, 2 p.m.
Location: Ilsley Public Library Community Room

All are invited to attend the annual meeting of Spirit in Nature on Sunday, February 16th at 2:00 p.m. in the community room at Ilsley Library in Middlebury. Spirit in Nature is a 70-acre forest sanctuary in Ripton, comprised of over 14 intersecting paths that represent the world's major faith traditions and their perspectives on nature.

This event will include socializing, refreshments, and the presentation of the Eco-Spirit award to Leif Taranta.

Leif is a key member of SNEG, Divest Middlebury, Sunrise, 350Vermont and more. Come learn about Spirit in Nature and Leif's activism!

Center for Careers & Internships

See these opportunities and more at go/handshake.

Education Analytics

Location: Madison, WI
Term: Summer
Deadline: February 14

Education Analytics is a non-profit organization based in Madison, WI, that uses data analysis to identify ways to improve education systems. This is a great opportunity to gain experience analyzing data, learn to code using 'R,' build statistical models, and receive mentorship as you pursue your personal project – and it includes competitive compensation and a housing stipend.

Government & Policy Student Trek

Location: Washington, DC
Term: Spring Break
Deadline: February 19

Looking for a fun and inspiring way to spend part of your spring break? The Center for Careers and Internships and Middlebury Professional Networks are partnering to provide a "Government & Policy Student Trek" to Washington, DC on Monday, March 23 and Tuesday, March 24. The objective is to introduce you to alumni working in all areas of government and policy and expose you to real-world professional experiences that will enable you to apply your liberal arts learning while informing your career exploration and other post-graduate planning.

Climb Internship: Field Research and Communications Intern - Colorado Fourteeners Initiative

Location: Denver, CO
Term: Summer
Deadline: February 26

This internship will be an ideal fit for an active student who will need to do long day hikes/climbs and a few multi-day overnight backpacking trips to remote locations as part of the data collection process. The intern will split time between the field and CFI's Golden office. In the office, the intern will help core staff with marketing, communications and outreach campaigns, while also contributing time towards extracting important information from CFI's donor database for reporting and fundraising. The successful applicant will be a strong communicator in written, visual and oral forms. The hiking use research work involves a high degree of data analysis and strong experiential knowledge of the R Studio program. *Housing Provided.

Organization: The Adecco Group

Location: New York, NY
Term: Summer
Deadline: March 15

Are you ready for the summer internship of a lifetime? Ready to rub shoulders with some of the top executives in the country? Ready for the chance to represent Adecco in the USA and possibly become The Adecco Group's Global CEO for One Month? Oh, and earn a $10,000 salary for the month? This is a 30-day PAID internship with a lot of travel. The Adecco Group is the world's leading provider of HR solutions. With a network of over 5,000 branches, in over 62 countries and territories around the world, they offer a wide variety of services, connecting around 700,000 associates with well over 100,000 clients every day.

The Yellow House Community

Location: Middlebury, VT
Term: Summer
Deadline: March 20

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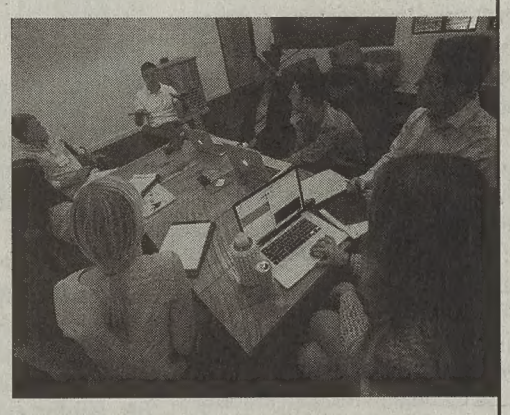

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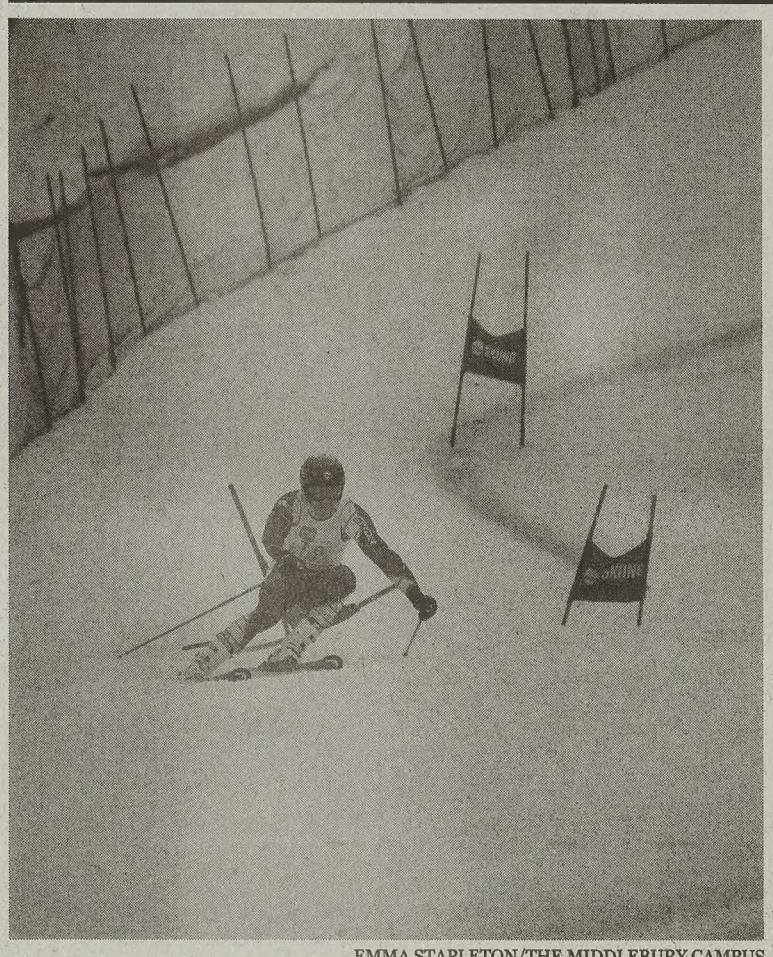


EMMA STAPLETON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Alpine, Nordic ski teams go big at Bates

By CAPTAIN RUDOLPH
Sports Writer

They did it!

The alpine and nordic ski teams earned their first carnival win in a very close victory over UVM. All members of the team clocked in speedy times to dominate the Bates Carnival.

For the alpine men, **Justin Alkier** '21 placed first in giant slalom and **Erik Arvidsson** '21 trailed him closely with a fourth place finish. In slalom, **Tim McGavett** '22 finished second.

Alkier commented on the team's successful weekend.

"After being so close to victory in the prior carnivals, it was amazing to see things come together for a well deserved win," said Alkier. "It's a great feeling to be in contention for the win every weekend — let alone win. The entire team is showing some serious speed right now and we're all excited for the remainder of the season, especially the Midd Carnival."

It wasn't just the men who showed up this last weekend though. The women also came to play. **Lucia Bailey** '21 led the pack with her third place finish in slalom. Meanwhile, **Nina Reichhelm** '23 brought in a top 10 finish in grand slalom, placing 8th.

Bailey reflected on her team's performance.

"There was an unspoken pressure to ski well this weekend because we have been so close to winning and the stars finally aligned," said Bailey. "Everyone contributed to the win."

Heading into Williams Carnival, excitement surrounds the team as it is the final Carnival before the beloved Midd Carnival, hosted at the Middlebury Snow Bowl. Hopes are that the success will continue throughout the remainder of the season.

Go Panthers!

Women's basketball plays opponents close in tough losses

By RAIN JI
Arts & Academics Editor

The Panthers hosted the Conn College on Saturday, Feb. 1. Middlebury held a 16–8 advantage over the Camels during the first ten minutes of the game, thanks to impressive play from **Reagan McDonald** '23 and **Maya Davis** '20. During the second quarter, however, the Camels secured 18 out of the first 24 points, which brought the game to a stalemate 34–34 at half time. The two teams had intense exchanges during the third quarter, and Davis and **Michaela Sullivan** '22 collaborated to score points. During the last quarter, with less than 7 minutes remaining, Middlebury was able to catch up to the Camels after seven straight points. Unfortunately, the Panthers could not turn the tide and lost the game 87–80.

Sullivan performed outstandingly in this game, scoring a career-high 25 points. In regards to the game, she said, "Losing to Connecticut wasn't an easy pill to swallow. Despite the loss, we outscored them in the fourth quarter, which shows how unwilling we were to give up, and I'm really proud of the way we fought until the end. At the end of the day, it's about working hard, becoming better basketball players, enjoying each other's company, and having fun."

On Feb. 6, Middlebury traveled to Massachusetts to compete against Emmanuel College. The Saints opened the game with a 6-point edge over the Panthers, and in 10 minutes, they had a 25–17 lead. Middlebury fought hard to come back during the second quarter. **Claire Miller** '23 and McDonald shot impressive back-to-back threes, and two teams scored evenly during the second quarter. Regrettably, the Panthers had a tough time during the third quarter, even after incredible plays from **Alana Kornaker** '22. With a mere 4 minutes remaining on the clock, Middlebury continued to work to shrink the difference, but lost to Emmanuel 82–89.

The Panthers had a bumpy start in their game against Wesleyan on Feb. 9, as the Cardinals led a steady 10-point advantage during the first quarter. Middlebury was able to reduce the point difference somewhat during the second stanza, but Wesleyan persisted in their attacks. Thankfully, McDonald was able to cut the disadvantage for Middlebury as she scored back-to-back. During the last quarter, the Panthers cut the deficit to 76–66 with a minute remaining. **Betsy Knox** '20 tallied up six points, while **Kira Waldman** '20 scored consecutive layups. The Cardinals overpowered the Panthers 84–70.

Recounting the week McDonald said, "Although the past few games have not gone on our way, we are remaining positive and keeping our team morale high. As a team, we are focusing on working together and celebrating both individual and team success."

The Panthers will challenge the Jumbos at Tufts on Friday, Feb. 14.

COURTESY PHOTO

Women's hockey leaves February Break untouched

By MAX PADILLA
Photo Editor

The second-ranked Panthers took a few hits over winter term, having lost to Plattsburgh State, 4–1, on Jan. 21 and to Hamilton, 2–0, on Jan. 31. The blue and white, however, turned the tables on Hamilton the following day and won 3–0.

The Panthers rounded out the break with a two-game win streak, beating Trinity 4–1 in their first game and 1–0 in the second.

Women's hockey will continue their season against Williams, a team with whom they've struggled in the past. Last season, the Panthers lost to Williams in all three matchups.

"Going into this weekend, we have to make sure we're doing all of the little things right that add up to the big things," said Sidney Porter '20. "Staying strong in the D-zone and getting pucks to the net will be a big focus all week."

MAX PADILLA/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Men's squash rounds out break on top

By MAX PADILLA
Photo Editor

The Panthers lost to Bates, MIT and Virginia over February break, but pulled out wins against Bowdoin, Colby and Tufts. Though they redeemed themselves last week, the Panthers are having a less successful season compared to last year. At this point last season, they had played 18 matches and only lost 5. This season, they've played 14 matches and lost 9.

For clarity, at this point last year, the team's PCT was .722 and this year it's .357. Middlebury heads to NESCAC championships this Friday at Bowdoin, though it is not yet known against whom they'll be facing. In the past five years, the Panthers have made it through the NESCAC championships, taking third place. Hopefully, the Panthers will go into this series to build on and expand their past successes.

Swimming and diving gets hot this winter

By MIGUEL ESPINOSA
Senior Sports Editor

Although the chilly Vermont winter freezes water into lifeless ice, such rules don't apply to the Middlebury Natatorium; the swimming pool, rather, teems with heated competition. The natatorium was especially reinvigorated when the University of Vermont, St. Michael's and Williams gathered on campus for the Middlebury Invitational on Jan. 31 and Feb. 1.

Individual performances comprised the invitational and no points were awarded to teams. **Audrey Kelly** '21 earned first place in the women's 50-yard freestyle, while **Corey Jalbert** '21 won first in the same event on the men's side. **Audrey Hsi** '22 also took first place in the women's 200-yard backstroke.

The natatorium will reawaken one last time for the women's NESCAC championships from Feb. 13 to 16. The men's squad, meanwhile, will journey south down Route 7 to Williams for their conference championship starting Feb. 20.

Track and field shuffles its way to the finish line at Cupid Challenge

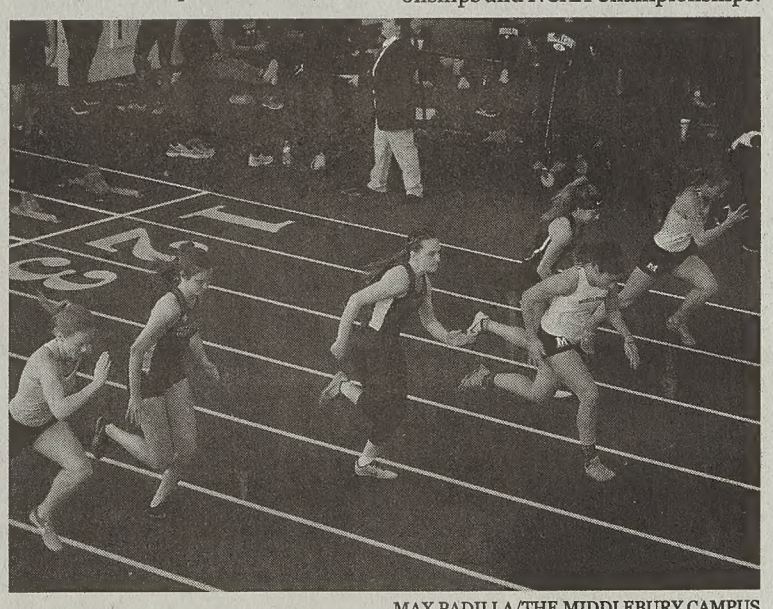
By JORDAN HOWELL
Sports Writer

The Panthers recently competed in the Tufts Cupid Challenge on Saturday, Feb. 8. Even though this meet was non-scoring, the men and women still came out with solid performances.

Some impressive results for the women included a first place finish by **Cassie Kearney** '22 in the 800 -meter run with a time of 2:18.22. **Talia Ruxin** '20 had a time of 17:45.96 which netted her first in the 5000-meter run. **Ava O'Mara** '21 and **Katie Glew** '21 both captured second place in the 600-meter run and one-mile run, respectively. Also, the respective "A" teams for the women were able to come in first place in the 4x400 relay and second in the distance medley.

The men dominated the competition as well. **Will Meyer** '20 finished the 3000-meter run with a time of 8:42.58, which propelled him to third place. In the 5000 meter run, **Theo Henderson** '20 came in first with a time of 15:02.53. It is also worth noting the performance of **Nathaniel Klein** '21. Klein shattered the school record in the shot put event with a throw of 15.17 meters.

The Panthers will travel to Massachusetts on Friday, Feb. 14 and Saturday, Feb. 15 for their next meet, the David Hemery Valentine Invitational. Shortly after, the team will face the championship meets: the Division III New England Championships and NCAA Championships.



MAX PADILLA/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Athletes from abroad: what brings them here?

SARAH FAGAN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

By JACK KAGAN
Sports Editor

The first time Ruhi Kamdar '22 came to Middlebury, Vermont was for her first-year orientation. A tennis player from Singapore, she had never seen her new home before. But equipped with her rackets, she knew it would all work out eventually.

Kamdar is one of a small group of international students who are also varsity athletes, all coming to Middlebury from a diverse array of athletic and academic cultures, often quite different to that of Middlebury. For many, the trip to the U.S. has been well worth taking.

Middlebury welcomes around 250 international students each year, roughly 11% of the entire student body. The Middlebury Athletic Communications Department states that only 20 of its varsity athletes hail from countries outside the U.S.

Middlebury attracts students from around the globe for its academic reputation, but athletics can also present a unique marketing opportunity for the school. Two Canadian hockey players, Shayla Coates '21 and Adam Wisco '22, from the women's and men's teams respectively, said coaches reaching out to them was a major factor in their consideration to cross the border into Vermont.

"Middlebury didn't come up until my gap year where I played junior hockey [when] Coach Sinclar spoke with me after my league's showcase. I was speaking with a few other teams at the time, but once I visited Middlebury I knew I wanted to go here," Wisco said.

Other athletes, who did not have the luxury of meeting Middlebury representatives in person, took their college research into their own hands. "We sat at home trawling through the Fiske Guide to Colleges. I put out a tennis recruiting profile via email to a lot of schools and I just looked at schools that had emailed me back. I emailed the coach, but he had already filled all of his recruiting spots. He basically told me if I got into Middlebury, then I would be on his team," said Catherine Blazye '20, a women's tennis player from London, England.

While many international athletes looking at colleges want a school where they can play their sport, many American colleges — and Middlebury specifically — have an edge due to academic prowess. For this reason, Middlebury often interests athletes even if they could potentially to play at a higher athletic level, such as at an NCAA Division I school (NCAA DI), where athletic departments can offer scholarships, more advanced facilities and more rigorous competition. International applicants to schools such as Middlebury are willing to forgo this opportunity in exchange for the rewards of a top tier education — all while competing in their sport on a smaller scale.

"The most important aspect of my [college] decision was finding a strong academic school that also fit who I am, and Middlebury was perfect for that. My original goal was to play DI, but I wouldn't have compromised my education just to play DI," Wisco said.

Blazye shared similar views, noting her original goal of DI recruitment was ultimately trumped by her passion for academics that has since flourished at Middlebury, as the NCAA DIII model allows for a sports schedule that does not prevent academic engagement.

In addition to the educational value of top U.S. colleges, some international athletes appreciate the opportunity to gain a peer support system through sports as they travel so far from home.

Kamdar walked onto the Middlebury women's tennis team after a junior career with the Singaporean national team. Her journey to Middlebury, however, did not come without complication.

The academic calendar at Kamdar's school in Singapore, which runs from January to December, resulted in Kamdar not having her test results in time to send to coaches for the early summer and fall recruiting process. Despite this challenge in her recruitment, Kamdar said she is happy she tried out for the team upon arrival to campus.

"I think being on a team and being a part of something very quickly makes you feel at home. When I made the team it was nice to immediately have a group of 12 girls that you could ask for help. I would say it definitely did help the transition," Kamdar said.

While she knew she wanted to go abroad for college, Kamdar was prepared for the differences that come with such a decision. As she was looking at schools in both the United Kingdom and the U.S., she noticed the prevalence of college tennis that existed in America but not the U.K. The ability to compete again as she faced a new chapter of her life in a new place was appealing.

"No matter where I go in the world, the tennis court is like a home base, you know? Wherever I go, I have my racquets, I find [my] people."

Other draws to coming to study in the U.S. are the resources available and the emphasis placed on sports of all levels as high school athletes look to continue their athletic careers. College athletic infrastructures like that of America's are rare at colleges in other parts of the world. This difference can be a large distinguishing factor in the college process. Wisco, Blazye and Lucas Donavan-Lafuente '23 also cited a comparatively lower interest in high school and college sports in their home countries.

"I'd say the biggest culture shock that I experienced when it came to sports at Middlebury was that people actually cared about how the college teams did. Back home, we would have the usual five parents who always showed up and the occasional friend but that was about it. Here, people who I haven't even met before come to watch and support and it gives me a team pride I have never felt before," said Donavan-Lafuente, a member of the men's rugby and track and field teams who is from London.

In the eyes of some, the disparity extends not only to fan support but also the school's financial commitment to teams. This feature that many schools like Middlebury have can be attractive to international athletes as athletic gear, meal stipends, and funding for training trips arise.

"The biggest shock was when I joined a varsity team. The insane amount of resources we have at hand [here at Middlebury] blew my mind. Something simple like a locker got me very excited as I'd only seen it in the movies," Donavan-Lafuente said.

An athlete's pursuit of studying and competing in America can easily translate to a longer term residence as well. Many athletes say they want to stay in the U.S. after graduation. "I have built so many relationships in the US that I really want to continue. I want another adventure. Maybe I will go back at some point, but for now I'm really excited for my next chapter in a new city," Blazye said.

Men's hockey splits weekend away, better puck next weekend

By BLAISE SIEFER
Sports Writer

The 2019-2020 men's ice hockey campaign is quickly rounding up for the Middlebury Panthers, who recently travelled to Connecticut to face off against NESCAC opponents Trinity and Wesleyan. Despite falling to No. 9 Trinity in a blowout on Friday, Feb. 7, the Panthers found success in their matchup with Wesleyan on Saturday, Feb. 8th.

The Panthers kicked off their series against the Bantams, who narrowly defeated them by a score of 4–3, in early January. This time around, Trinity entered the matchup with a distinguished resume including a top-10 national ranking and a No. 2 standing in the NESCAC. Despite a closely contested first period, the Panthers were never able to find control of the game, conceding six total goals. **Billy Dobensky** '23 and **Bret Pastor** '22 found the back of the net for Middlebury, but it was not enough to faze the red-hot Bantams.

Middlebury then travelled south for an away match against the Cardinals, who dealt them a loss last month at home. After a scoreless first period, **Alex Heinritz** '21 put in a deflected shot to put the Panthers ahead- and they never looked back. **Brett Dineen** '20 doubled the Panthers' lead early on in the third period and the effort was extended by **Matt Danner** '21 and **Tyler Capello** '22 who also added goals in the third. The game finished 4–1 for the Panthers. "The team really came together for the win on Saturday, and we're building momentum for the playoffs," noted **Charlie Parsons** '21. The Panthers begin their double header away at Williams on Friday, Feb. 14th and continue the following day, where they will play at home in Kenyon Arena.

Women's squash grabs 3rd at NESCAC Tournament

By HEATHER BOEHM
Sports Writer

Women's Squash took anything but a vacation during Feb break. The team got back on the road to face a loaded schedule, competing against top-ranked teams. The northeast tour began with a tough matchup against both Virginia and Harvard, followed by Tufts and was rounded out with strong NESCAC tournament play. Overall, Middlebury came out of the week with an even 3–3.

The Panthers fell short in Cambridge, succumbing to #10 Virginia on Saturday, Feb. 1 and #1 Harvard. Despite a promising run from Virginia Schaus '21 in her first match, Middlebury was shut out in both contests. But they quickly dusted themselves off and headed up to Medford.

On Sunday, Feb. 2, Middlebury came out firing against #20 Tufts and kept their momentum. The Panthers only dropped two matches and were able to pick up four shutouts in the fourth, sixth, seventh, and eighth slots.

The Panthers headed into the NESCAC tournament confident as they came off such a decisive win, and they made sure to deliver. The women overcame Bates with a score of 7–2 to lift them into the semifinals on Friday, Feb. 8. **Annie Glassie** '20 made the most of her final NESCAC tournament, fighting to the very end in the eighth position. After the first game slipped through her fingers 11–9, Glassie found her way past her opponent in the fifth game to clinch the match.

A few hours later, Trinity proved its worth as the number one seed of the tournament, refusing to allow Middlebury a single match in the semifinals. The Bantams went on to ease past Williams with an 8–1 triumph in the finals. Middlebury then battled for third place against Amherst. The women were able to steal third place from the Mammoths in a tight 6–3 tussle on Sunday, Feb. 9. Amherst threw the first jab and took the first slot in five games. The Panthers quickly punched back with wins from all three seniors including Glassie, **Natasha Lowitt** '20, and **Mira Chugh** '20 in the seventh, fifth, and eighth positions respectively. **Caroline Arena** '23 and **Gwen Davis** '22 finished off their opponents to give Middlebury the victory.

Lowitt commented on the work behind her team's successful weekend.

"We have been spending more time at practice doing drills and playing games that mimic the pressure we feel in real matches," said Lowitt. "I think this intentional exercise of feeling stressed and uncomfortable at practice has really helped us stay calm and feel prepared in tough matches.

The Panthers are now at the tail end of their season. On Friday, Feb. 21, the women will journey to Yale for the CSA Team Championship to spar against some of the best teams in the nation. On Friday, March 6, a handful of the squad will head down to Pennsylvania for the CSA Individual Championship.

"Our last weekend of the season is nationals and we are really hoping to move up a spot in the rankings," said Lowitt. "We have been playing really well against strong teams and want to continue this momentum at nationals."

MAX PADILLA/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Men's basketball takes no prisoners as it extends streak

By MICHAEL SEGEL
Sports Writer

Middlebury put up a dominant performance at Wesleyan on Sunday to improve to 19–3 for the season. The Panthers shot 60% (39-65) from the field, outscoring Wesleyan 48–37 in the first half and putting up 47 more in the second half en route to a 95–79 victory.

The Panthers started out on an explosive 30–12 run which Wesleyan was able to cut down to 30–21, but the Panthers would hold an eleven point advantage at the half. In the second half, Middlebury was able to nullify Wesleyan's plays, getting out to a 56–39 lead. Wesleyan never cut the deficit to less than fifteen the rest of the way through the game.

Jack Farrell '21 and **Tommy Eastman** '21 led the squad in scoring with 20 points apiece and **Matt Folger** '20 turned in an all around impressive performance with 19 points, 11 rebounds, and 6 assists. **Ryan Cahill** '21 was impressive off the bench with 14 points and **Griffin Kornaker** '21 led the team with 10 assists and has 19 helpers in the team's last two games.

The boys will play next on Friday night at 7:00 p.m. at home when they host Tufts.